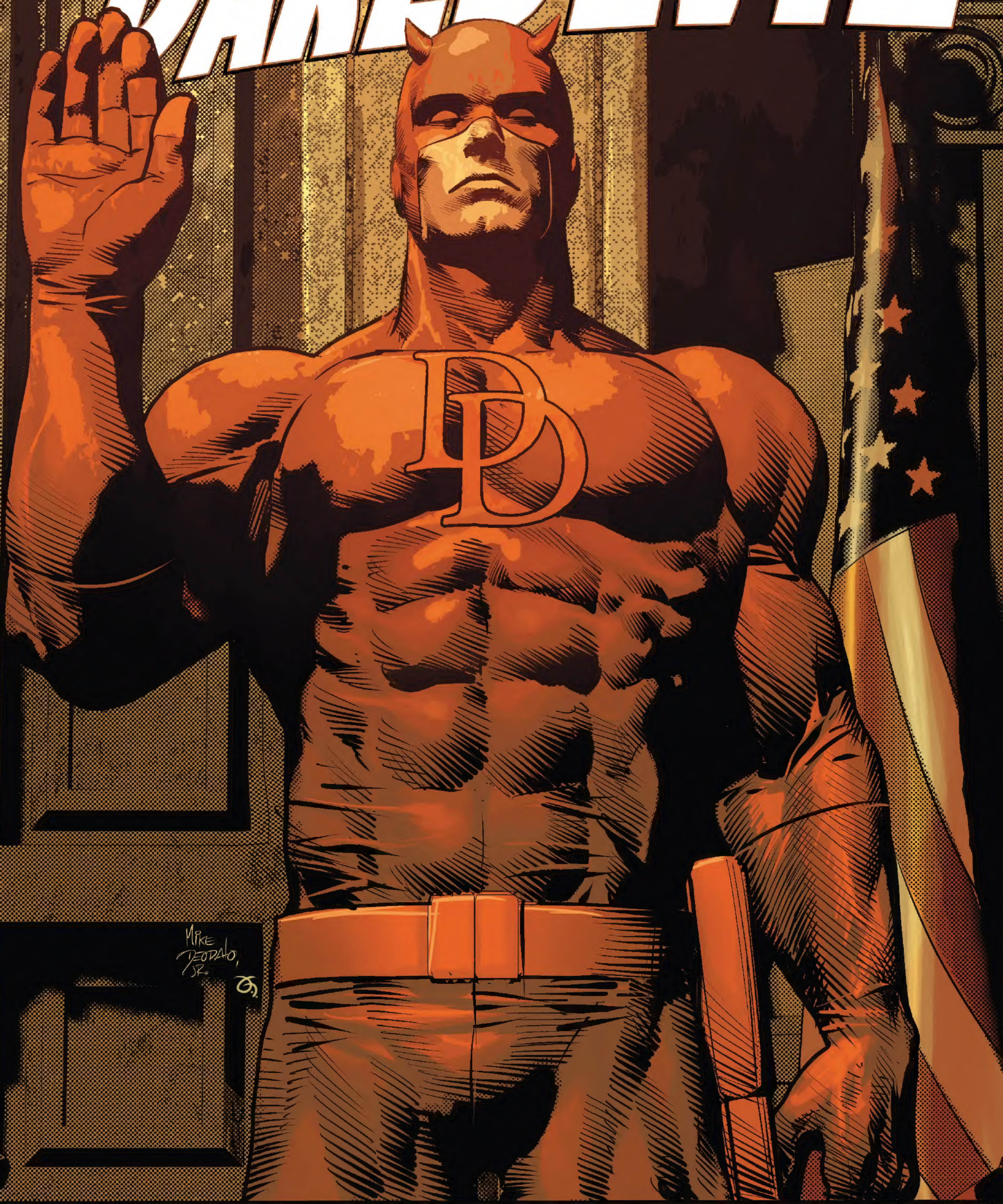


MARVEL

#22

SOULE • SUDŽUKA • MILLA

DAREDEVIL



WHEN MATT MURDOCK WAS A KID, HE LOST HIS SIGHT IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A TRUCK CARRYING RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS. THOUGH HE COULD NO LONGER SEE, THE CHEMICALS HEIGHTENED MURDOCK'S OTHER SENSES AND IMBUED HIM WITH AN AMAZING 360-RADAR SENSE. NOW MATT USES HIS ABILITIES TO FIGHT FOR HIS CITY. HE IS THE *MAN WITHOUT FEAR*. HE IS...

DAREDEVIL

DUE TO MANIPULATION BY THE MIND-ALTERING POWERS OF THE PURPLE CHILDREN, THE WORLD HAS FORGOTTEN DAREDEVIL'S TRUE IDENTITY IS MATT MURDOCK. SHOCKED BY THEIR ACTIONS, BUT NOT WANTING TO SQUANDER THIS FRESH START, MATT RETURNED TO NEW YORK, WAS READMITTED TO THE BAR, AND IS TAKING THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD A PLAN THAT WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING...A PLAN THAT BEGINS WITH MATT TAKING THE WITNESS STAND...AS DAREDEVIL!

CHARLES SOULE
WRITER

GORAN SUDŽUKA
ARTIST

MATT MILLA
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VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER
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NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT,
CRIMINAL DIVISION.

THE
COURTROOM
IS A SACRED
PLACE.

A LITERAL
FORTRESS OF
CIVILIZATION, BUILT
TO HOLD BACK THE
THRUSTING SPEARS
OF ANARCHY.

IN THIS
PLACE, THINGS
THAT ARE **WRONG**
CAN BE PUT
RIGHT.

THIS IS
MY OPINION, OF
COURSE, HOWEVER,
IT IS A **POWERFUL**
OPINION, VESTED WITH
THE AUTHORITY OF
THE STATE OF
NEW YORK.

WITH THIS **MIND**, I
CONSIDER THE GREAT
QUESTIONS.

WITH
THIS **HAMMER**,
I METE OUT
JUSTICE.

AND FROM
THIS **BENCH**,
I **RULE.**
NEEDLESS
TO SAY...

SUPREME

PART 2



...I'M NOT A BIG FAN OF STUNTS.

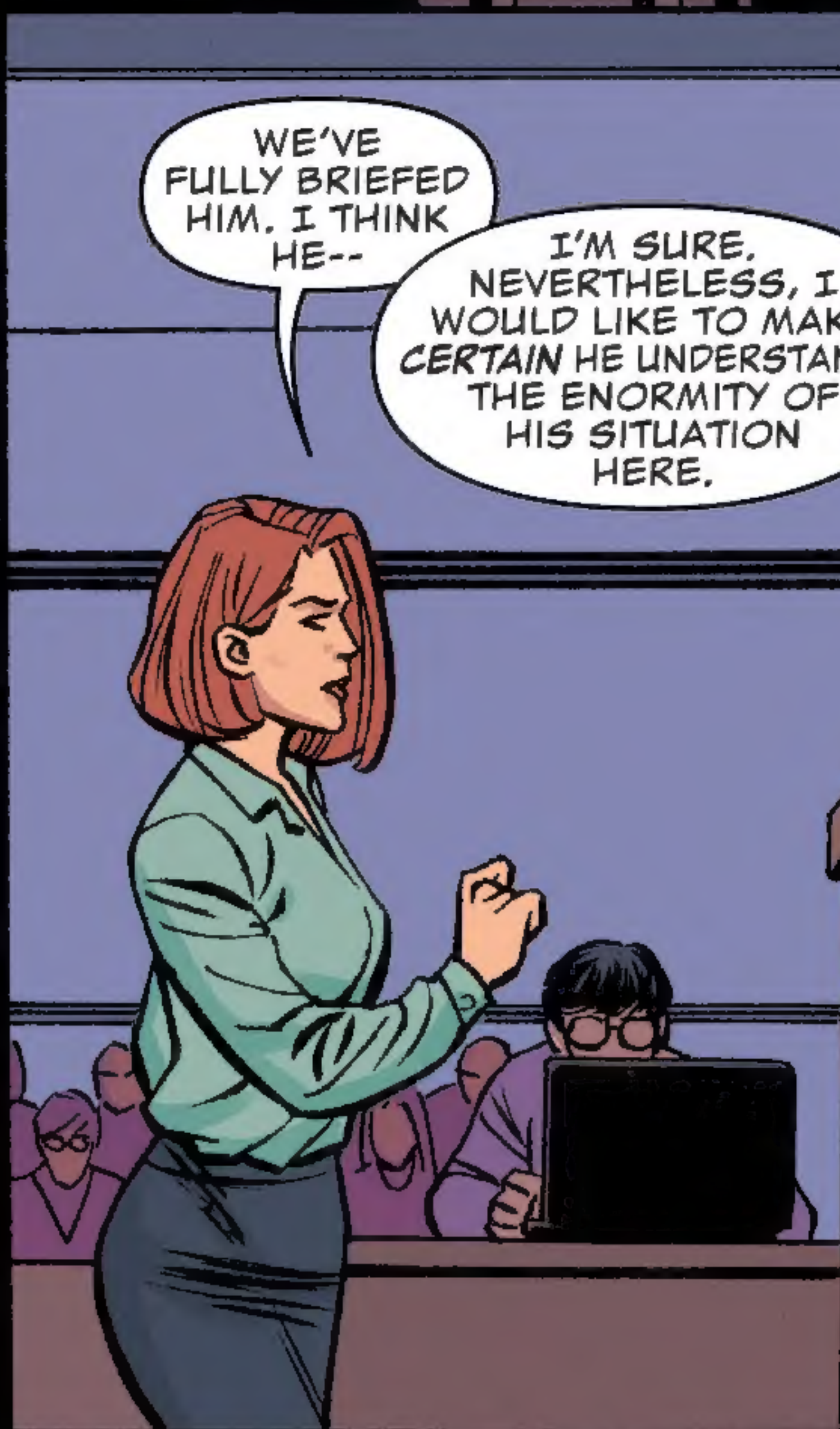
NO, YOUR HONOR, OF COURSE NOT. THIS ISN'T THAT.

Well...it sort of is. That's why I put the red suit back on. Go for the razzle-dazzle.



I DO HOPE SO, MS. PORTER. IT IS THE ONLY REASON I AM ALLOWING THIS TO PROCEED.

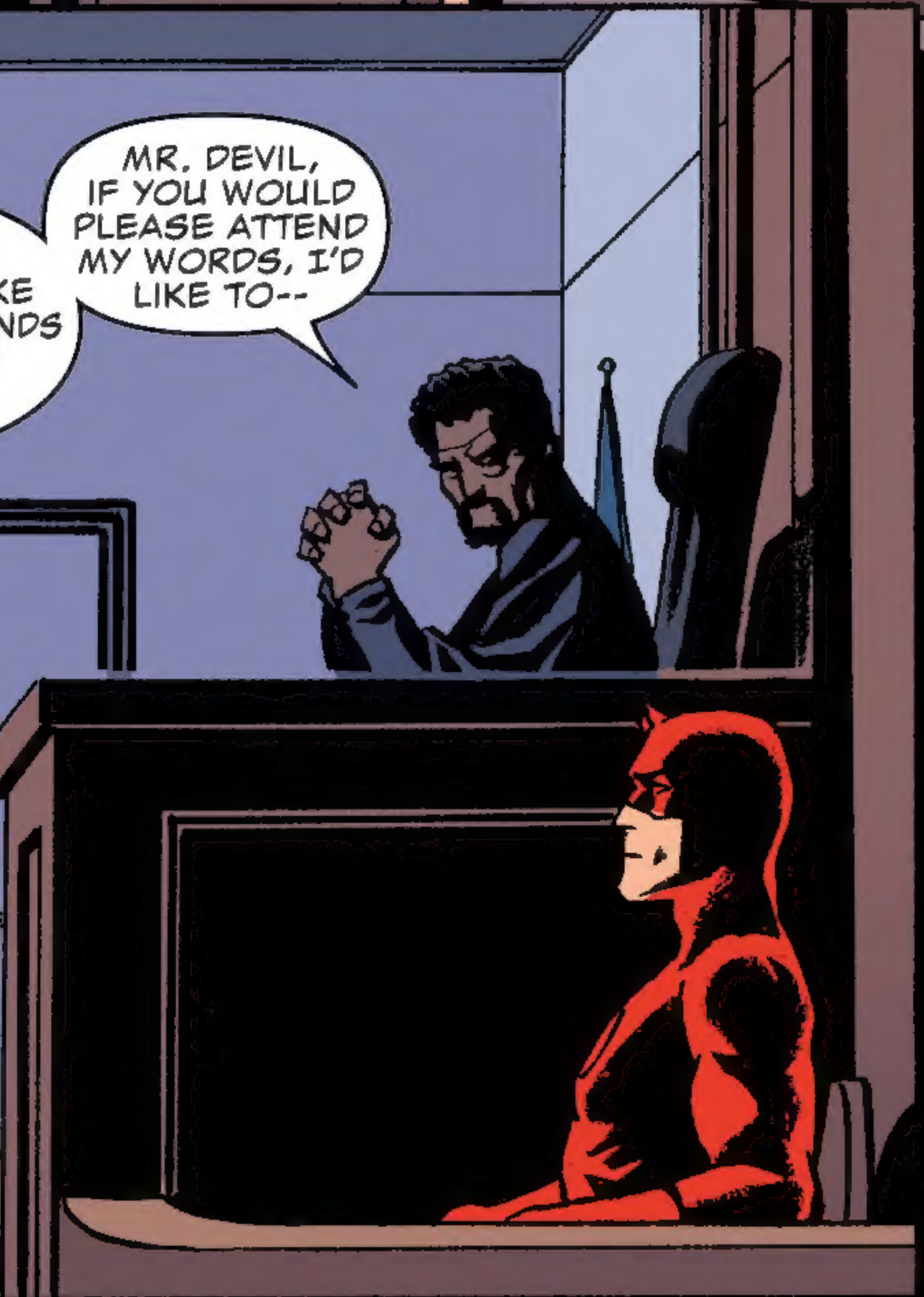
I AM CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT MR. DEVIL MAY NOT BE PROPERLY INFORMED AS TO THE STAKES OF TODAY'S HEARING.



WE'VE FULLY BRIEFED HIM. I THINK HE--

I'M SURE. NEVERTHELESS, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CERTAIN HE UNDERSTANDS THE ENORMITY OF HIS SITUATION HERE.

MR. DEVIL, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE ATTEND MY WORDS, I'D LIKE TO--



IT'S DAREDEVIL, YOUR HONOR.

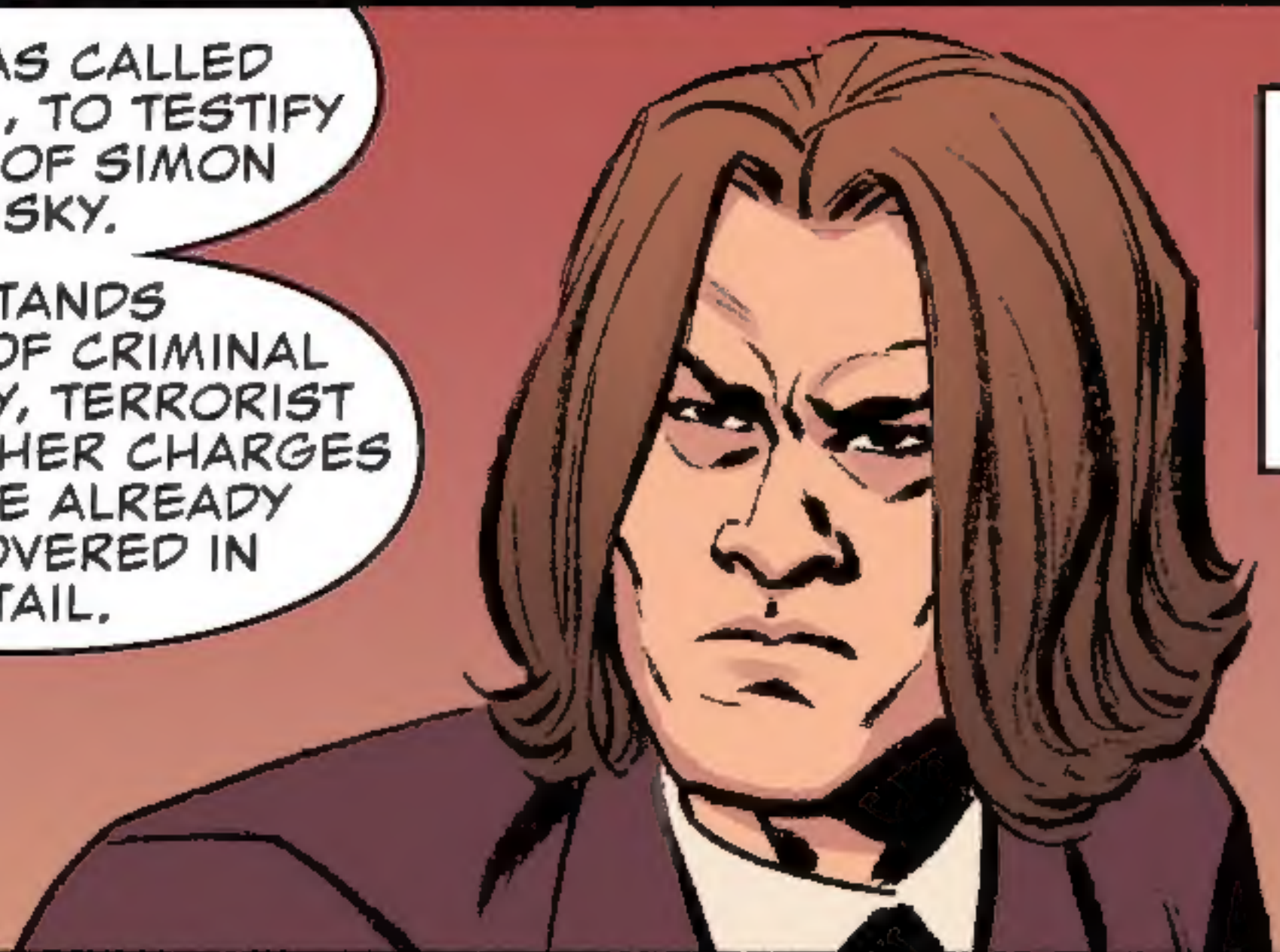
PARDON ME?

ONE WORD.

NOTED.

THE STATE HAS CALLED YOU, DAREDEVIL, TO TESTIFY AT THE TRIAL OF SIMON SLUGANSKY.

HE STANDS ACCUSED OF CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY, TERRORIST ACTS AND OTHER CHARGES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN COVERED IN DETAIL.



Correct. Slug's part of a gang called the Clip, and they tried to blow up City Hall in an attempt to kick-start the collapse of civilization.

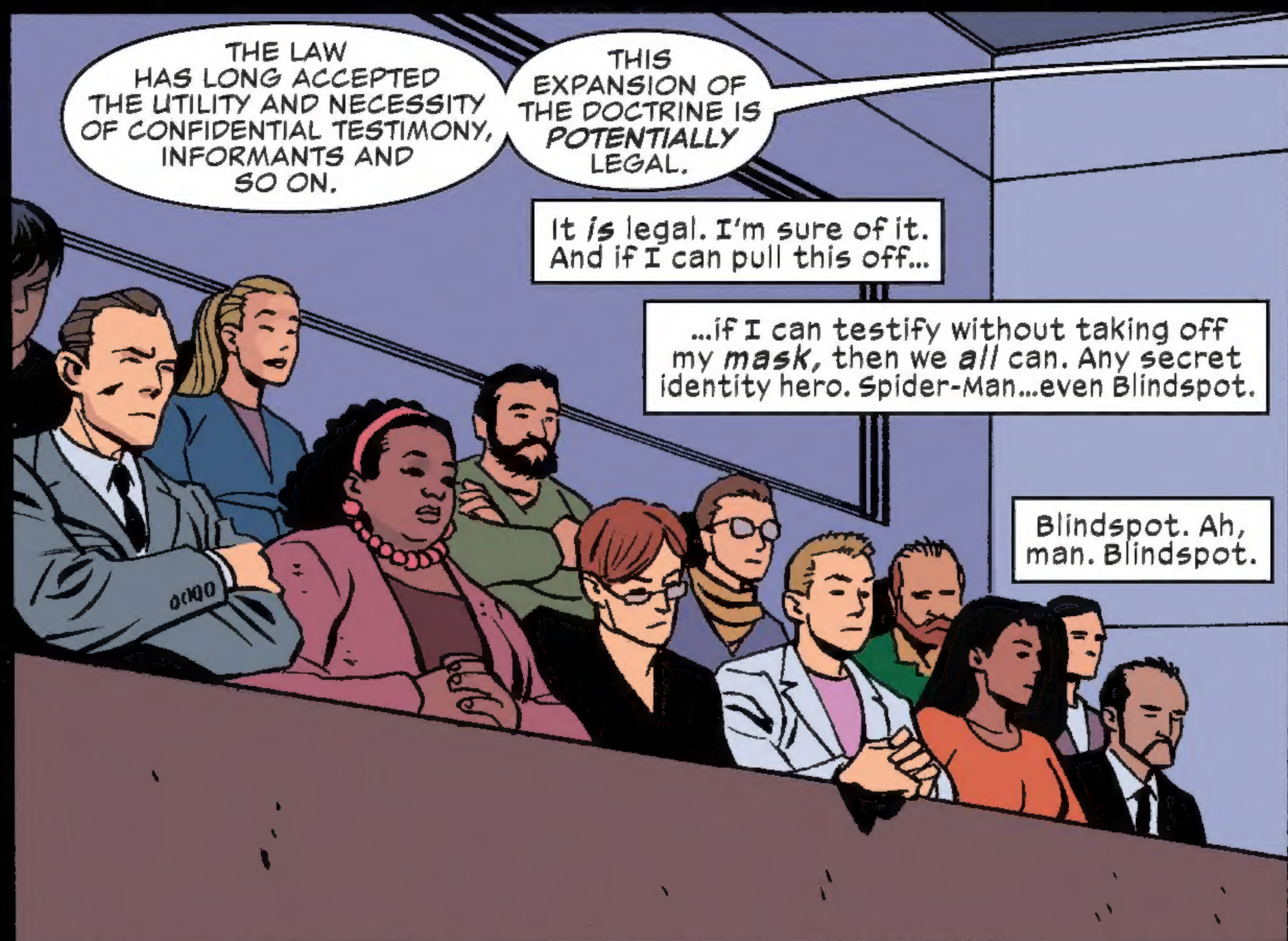
I'm not sure it even made sense to them.

YOU ARE HERE AS DAREDEVIL, NOT IN YOUR CIVILIAN PERSONA.

YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ANONYMOUSLY.

Slug's gang escaped, but we got him, and I picked up plenty of evidence with my super-senses.

If the judge lets me testify, I can put him away, and maybe get him to turn over on his crew.



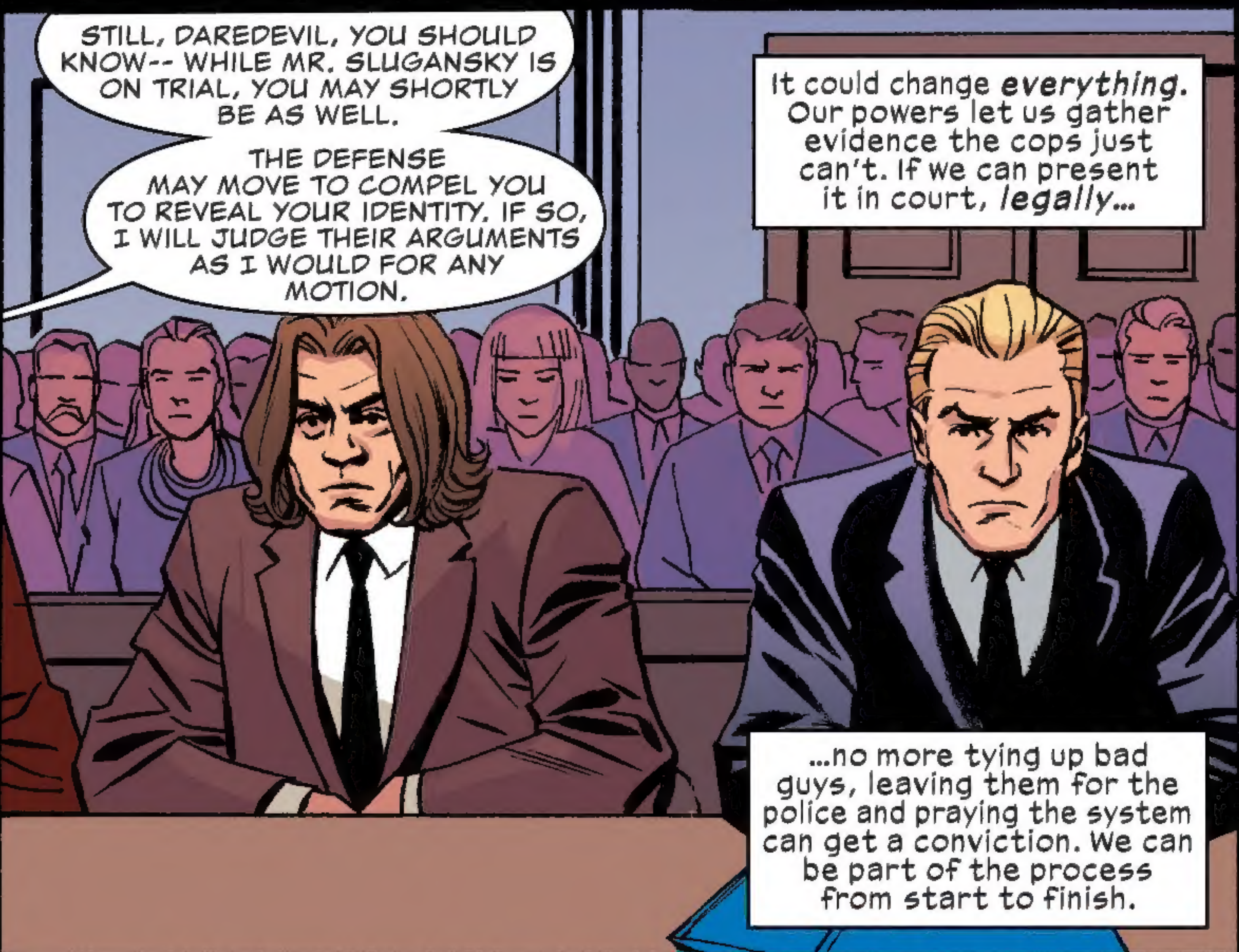
THE LAW HAS LONG ACCEPTED THE UTILITY AND NECESSITY OF CONFIDENTIAL TESTIMONY, INFORMANTS AND SO ON.

THIS EXPANSION OF THE DOCTRINE IS POTENTIALLY LEGAL.

It is legal. I'm sure of it. And if I can pull this off...

...if I can testify without taking off my mask, then we all can. Any secret identity hero. Spider-Man...even Blindspot.

Blindspot. Ah, man. Blindspot.

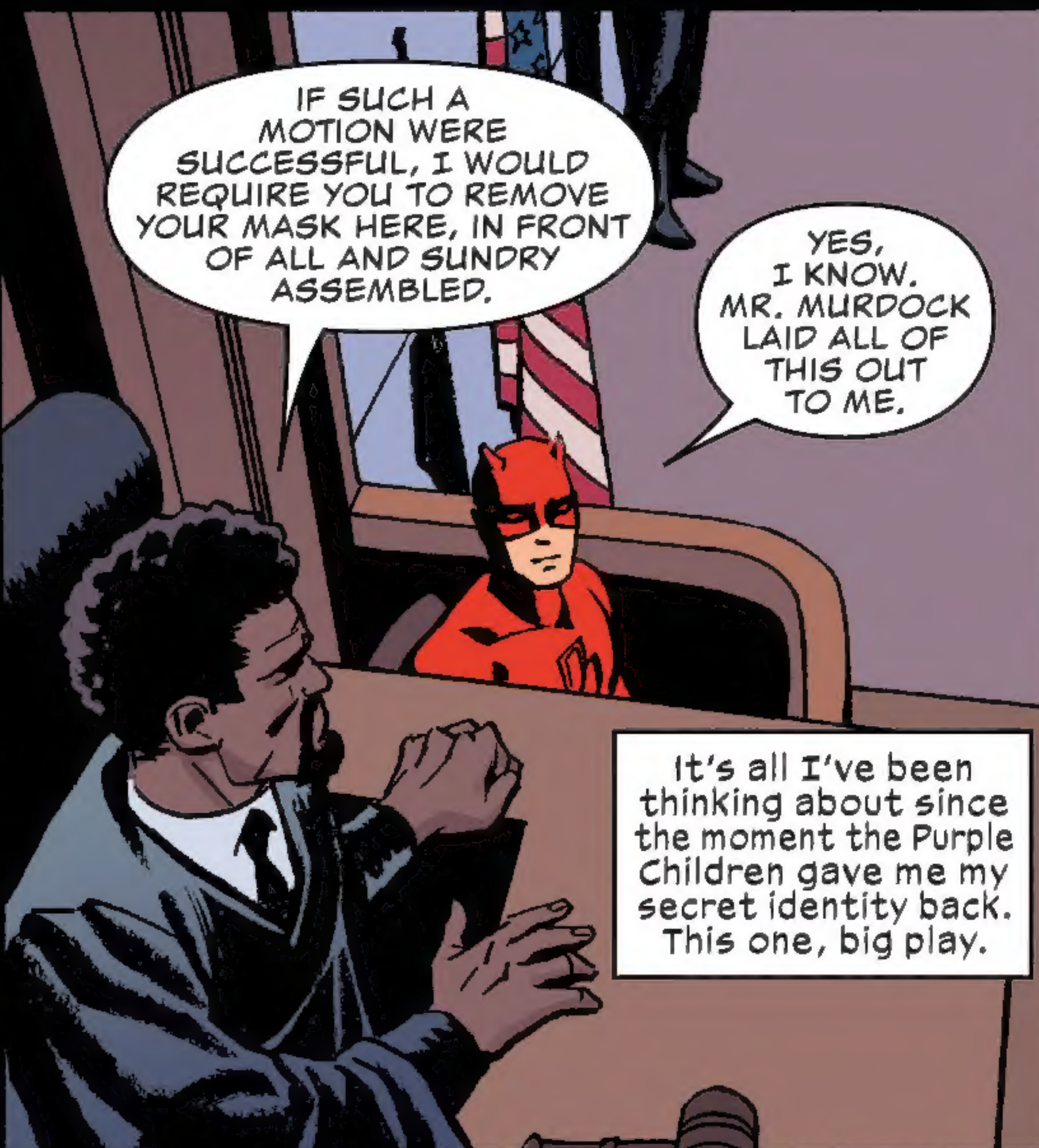


STILL, DAREDEVIL, YOU SHOULD KNOW-- WHILE MR. SLUGANSKY IS ON TRIAL, YOU MAY SHORTLY BE AS WELL.

THE DEFENSE MAY MOVE TO COMPEL YOU TO REVEAL YOUR IDENTITY. IF SO, I WILL JUDGE THEIR ARGUMENTS AS I WOULD FOR ANY MOTION.

It could change everything. Our powers let us gather evidence the cops just can't. If we can present it in court, legally...

...no more tying up bad guys, leaving them for the police and praying the system can get a conviction. We can be part of the process from start to finish.



IF SUCH A MOTION WERE SUCCESSFUL, I WOULD REQUIRE YOU TO REMOVE YOUR MASK HERE, IN FRONT OF ALL AND SUNDRY ASSEMBLED.

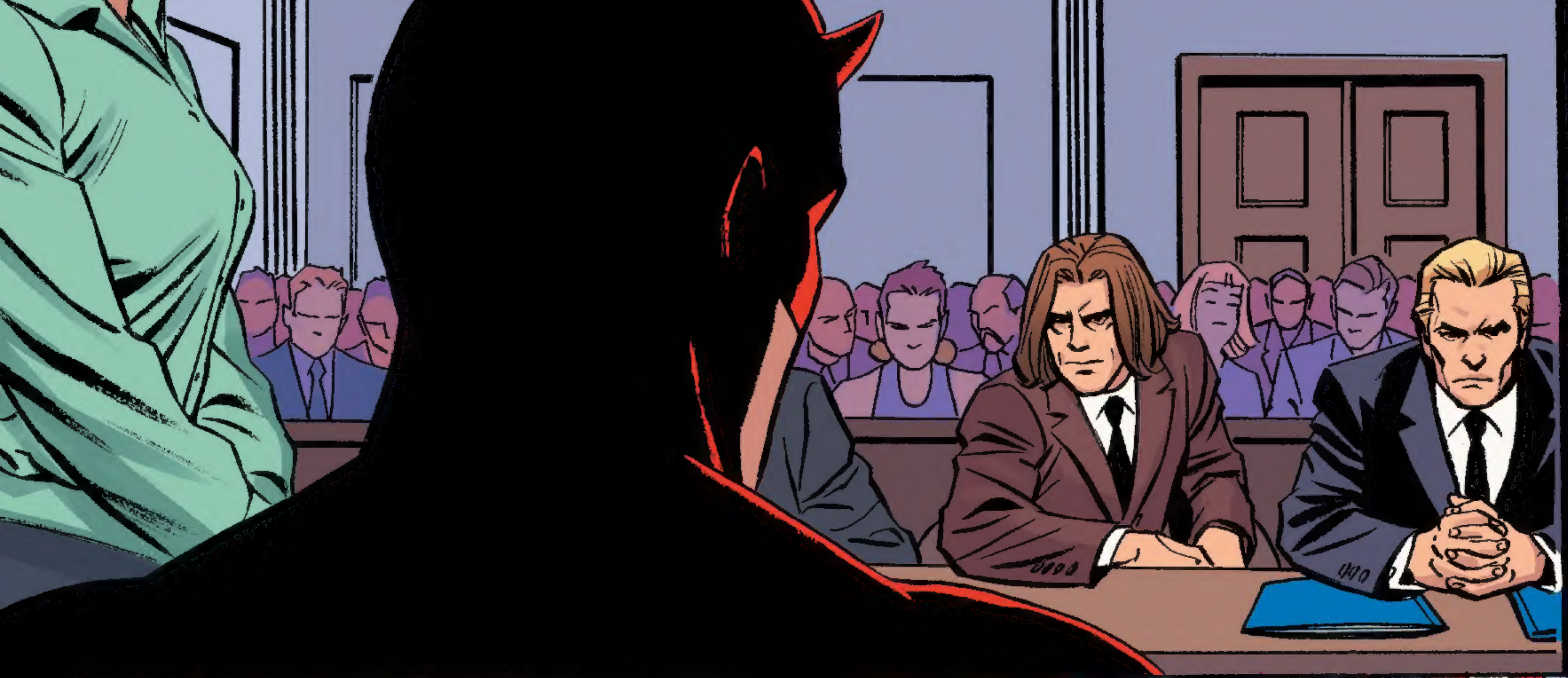
YES, I KNOW. MR. MURDOCK LAID ALL OF THIS OUT TO ME.

It's all I've been thinking about since the moment the Purple Children gave me my secret identity back. This one, big play.



AND KNOWING ALL OF THIS, YOU CHOOSE TO PROCEED?

It all comes down to this. Here. Today.







YOU SURE ABOUT THAT, COUNSELOR? KEEP READING.

YOU'LL LIKE THE SECTION THAT RESPONDS TO YOUR ROVIARO ARGUMENT, I'M SURE, AND THE U.S. V. SANCHEZ ANSWER IS PARTICULARLY CLEVER AS WELL.



I HATE TO SAY IT, MR. BADEN, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE DEFENSE ANTICIPATED EVERY ARGUMENT YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE.

AND THEN SOME.

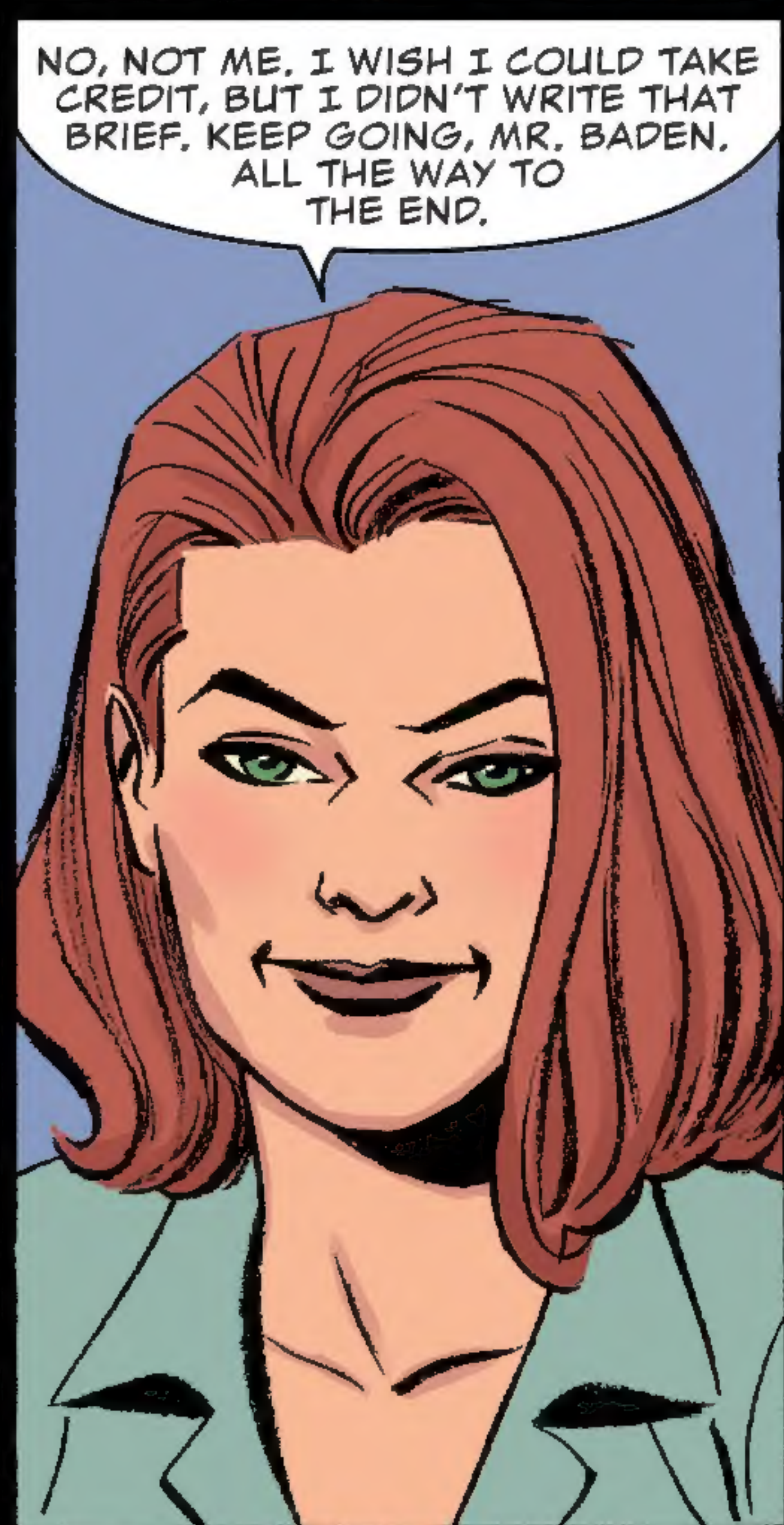


BUT HOW? IF YOU SOMEHOW ACQUIRED MY MOTION AHEAD OF TIME, YOU JUST BOUGHT YOURSELF A MISTRIAL, PORTER.

OH, CALM DOWN. FIRST OF ALL, A MISTRIAL IS THE JUDGE'S CALL, NOT YOURS. AT YOUR HOURLY RATE, I'D THINK YOU'D KNOW THAT.

AND SECOND, WE DIDN'T NEED TO STEAL YOUR ARGUMENTS. WE JUST NEEDED TO ANTICIPATE THEM.

YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU--



NO, NOT ME. I WISH I COULD TAKE CREDIT, BUT I DIDN'T WRITE THAT BRIEF. KEEP GOING, MR. BADEN. ALL THE WAY TO THE END.



THIS IS ABSOLUTELY OUTRAGEOUS. I DON'T CARE WHO WROTE THIS THING-- IF YOU THINK I'LL JUST--

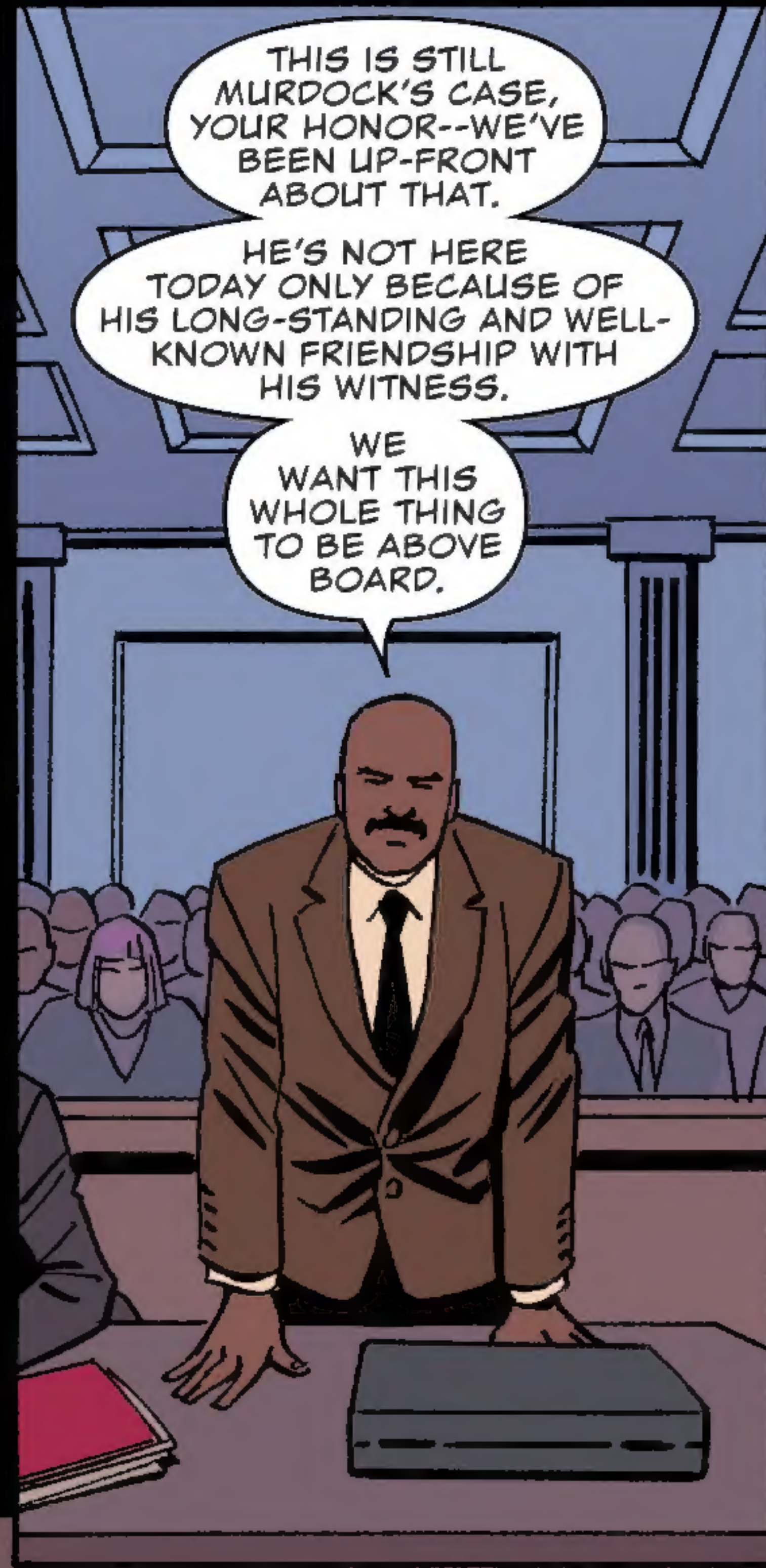


OH.

Matthew M. Murdock

By: Matthew M. Murdock

Assistant District Attorney
Office of the District Attorney,
New York County
Logan place
New York



THIS IS STILL MURDOCK'S CASE, YOUR HONOR--WE'VE BEEN UP-FRONT ABOUT THAT.

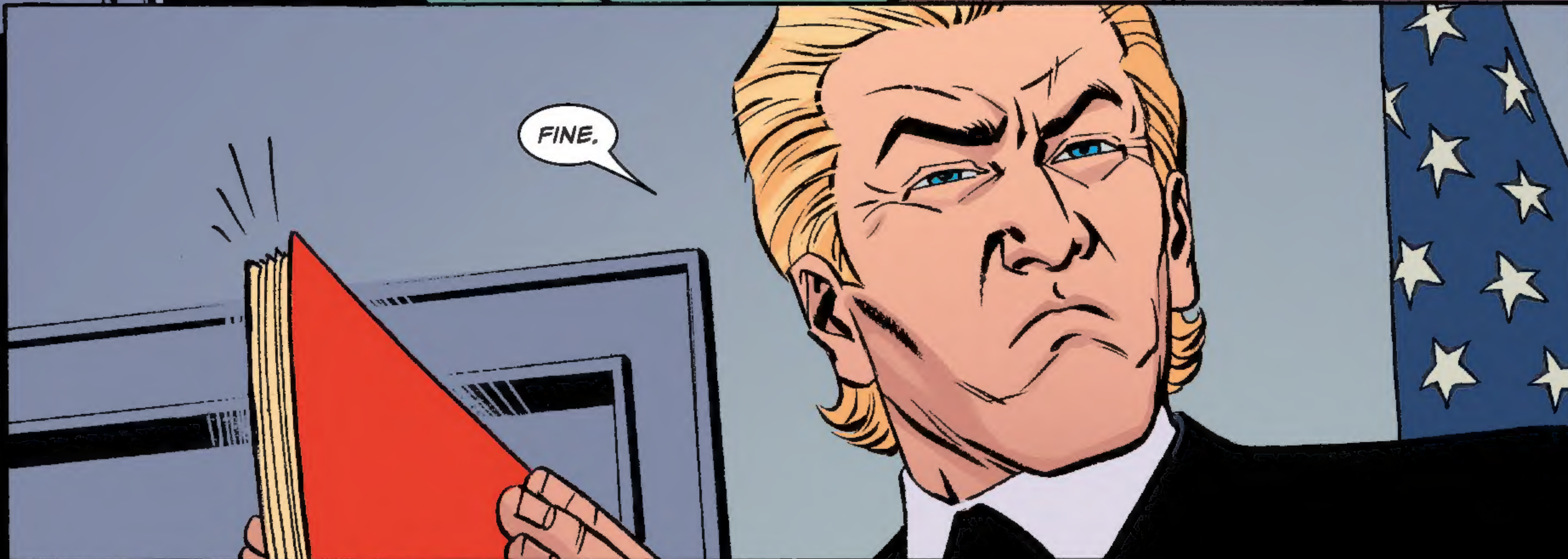
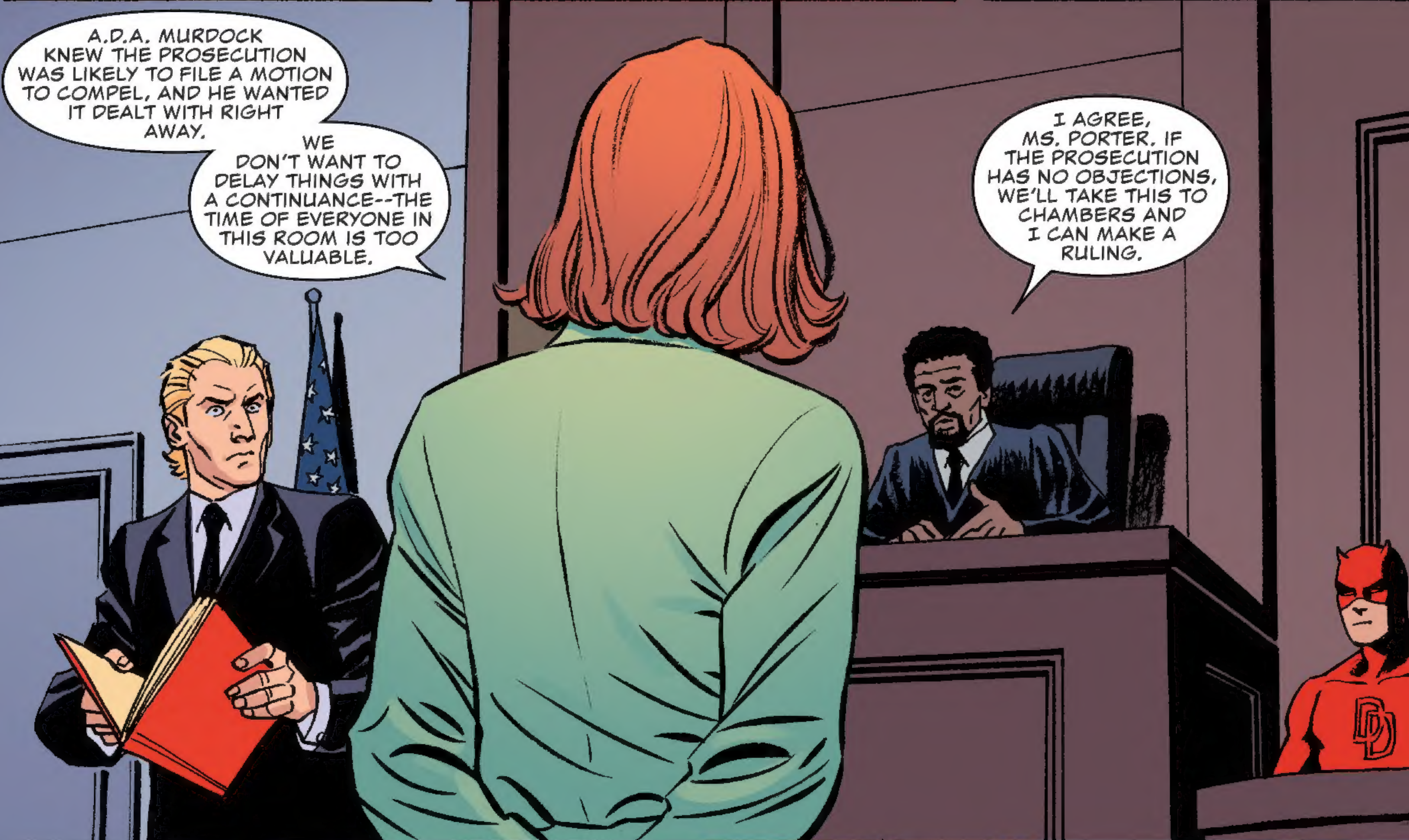
HE'S NOT HERE TODAY ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS LONG-STANDING AND WELL-KNOWN FRIENDSHIP WITH HIS WITNESS.

WE WANT THIS WHOLE THING TO BE ABOVE BOARD.

A.D.A. MURDOCK KNEW THE PROSECUTION WAS LIKELY TO FILE A MOTION TO COMPEL, AND HE WANTED IT DEALT WITH RIGHT AWAY.

WE DON'T WANT TO DELAY THINGS WITH A CONTINUANCE--THE TIME OF EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM IS TOO VALUABLE.

I AGREE, MS. PORTER, IF THE PROSECUTION HAS NO OBJECTIONS, WE'LL TAKE THIS TO CHAMBERS AND I CAN MAKE A RULING.



FINE.

This is the part
I was really
worried about.

Porter's an excellent
attorney, but Baden is
serious. Fifteen hundred
bucks an hour, last I heard.



Porter's good on her feet, and
I prepped her as much as I
could--tried to anticipate
everything Baden would say...

...but you
can't think of
everything.



Good...good. Keep it up,
Porter. I don't think this
judge wants to unmask
Daredevil in his courtroom.
He'll only do it if Baden
forces his hand.

Damn. Baden
is *sharp*.

Still, the
judge probably
won't--



HUH. THAT
IS ACTUALLY A
VERY INTERESTING
POINT, MR.
BADEN.

Ah...
crap.





Why did I *do* this? This isn't some fight in an alley.

This is betting *everything* I've been working for, my entire *life*, on a single legal argument.

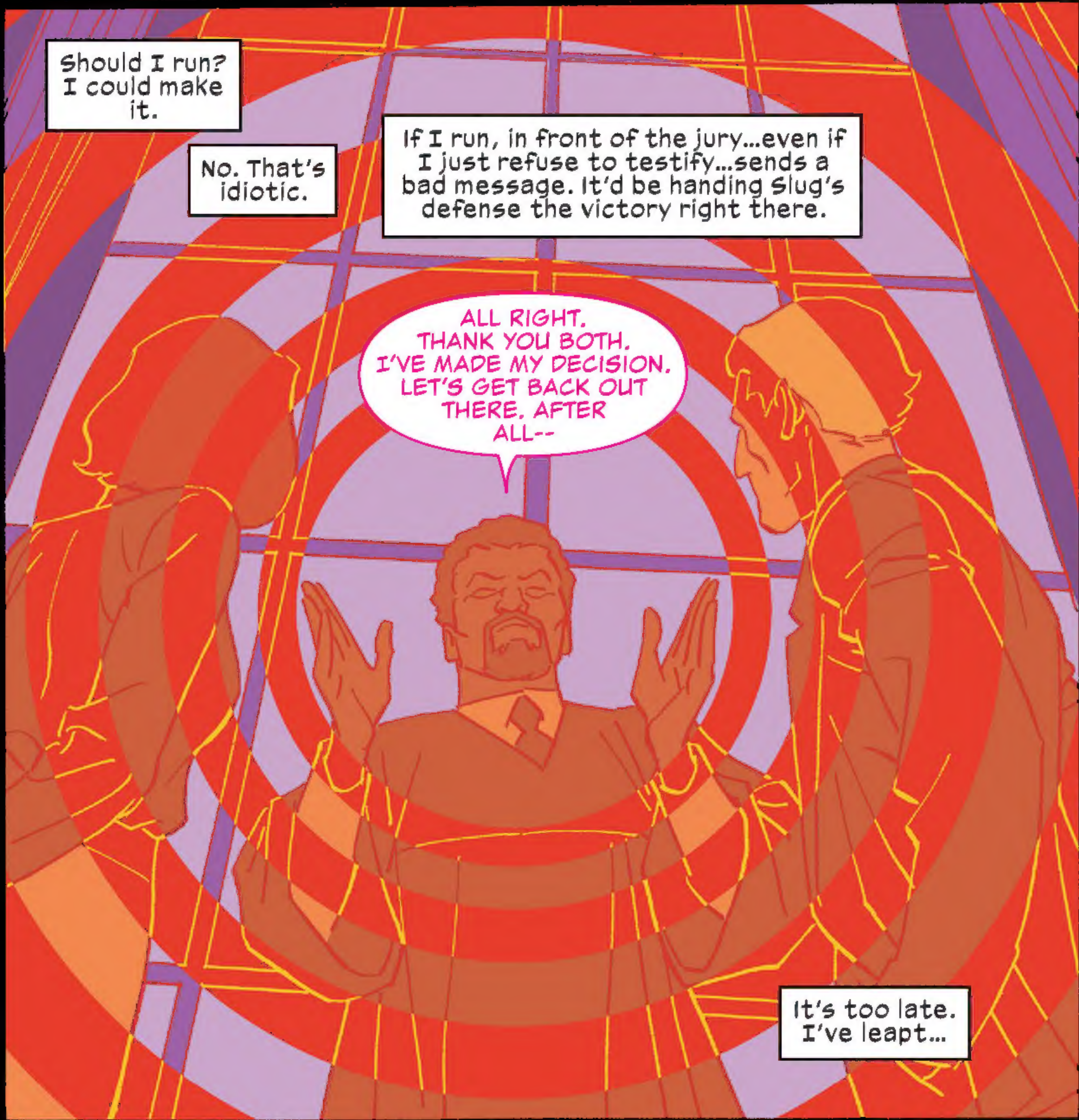
Which I don't even get to *argue*.



If my identity gets out again... I won't get a second chance. The Purple Children won't show up to put the genie back in the bottle.

My life will be *over. Again.*

And on my tombstone: "*Couldn't tell the difference between fearless and stupid.*"



Should I run? I could make it.

No. That's idiotic.

If I run, in front of the jury...even if I just refuse to testify...sends a bad message. It'd be handing Slug's defense the victory right there.

ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU BOTH. I'VE MADE MY DECISION. LET'S GET BACK OUT THERE. AFTER ALL--

It's too late. I've leapt...



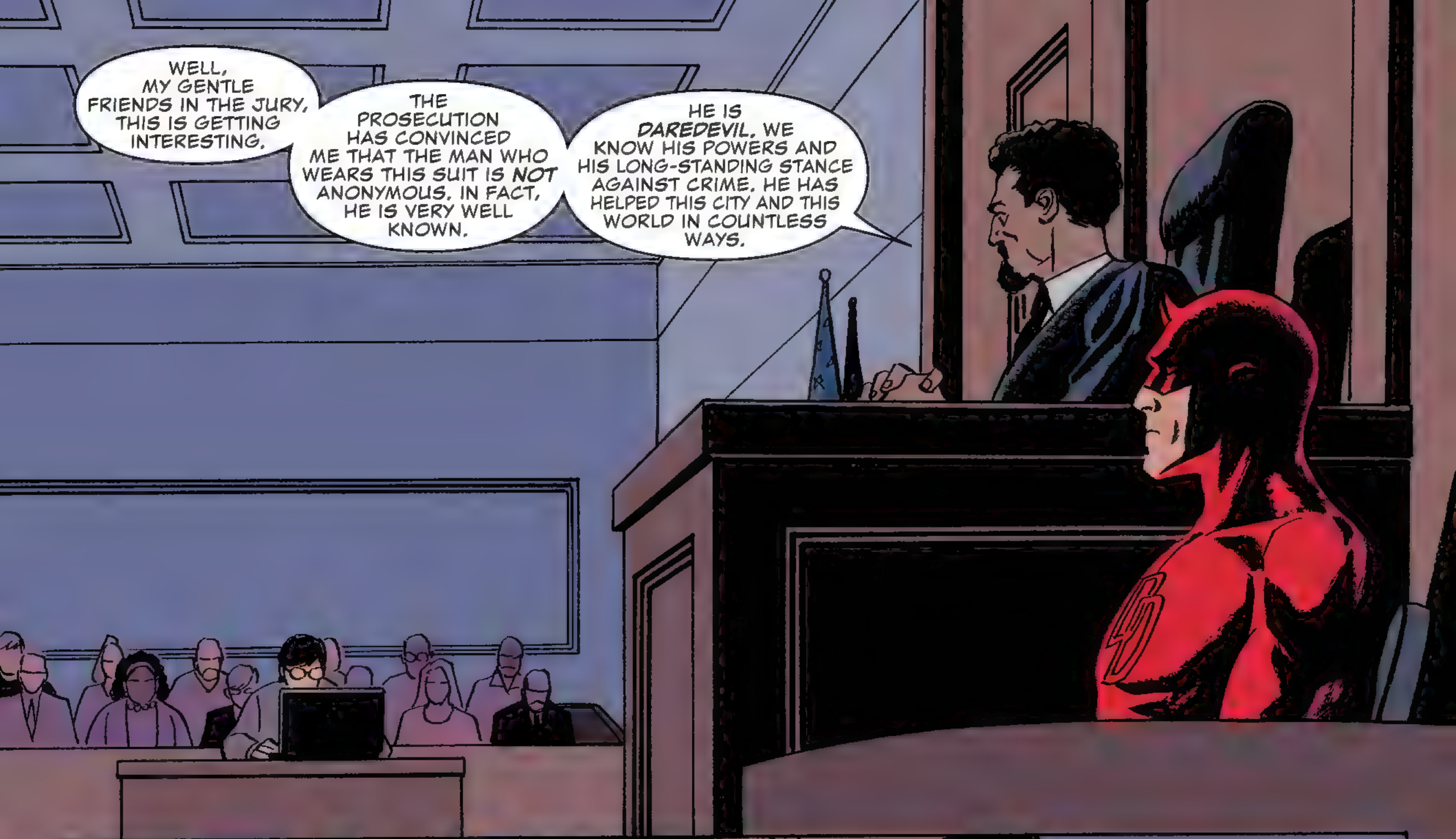
...let's see where I land.

--WE DON'T WANT TO KEEP THEM IN *SUSPENSE.*

WELL,
MY GENTLE
FRIENDS IN THE JURY,
THIS IS GETTING
INTERESTING.

THE
PROSECUTION
HAS CONVINCED
ME THAT THE MAN WHO
WEARS THIS SUIT IS NOT
ANONYMOUS. IN FACT,
HE IS VERY WELL
KNOWN.

HE IS
DAREDEVIL. WE
KNOW HIS POWERS AND
HIS LONG-STANDING STANCE
AGAINST CRIME. HE HAS
HELPED THIS CITY AND THIS
WORLD IN COUNTLESS
WAYS.



VARIOUS
COURTS HAVE AFFIRMED
THE IDEA THAT UNDER CERTAIN
CIRCUMSTANCES, WITNESSES
CAN OFFER CONFIDENTIAL
TESTIMONY--THE SEVENTH
CIRCUIT, EVEN THE U.S.
SUPREME COURT.

IN MY
VIEW, DAREDEVIL
SATISFIES THESE
CONDITIONS.



BUT ONLY
IF THE MAN
SITTING ON THE
WITNESS STAND
IS ACTUALLY
DAREDEVIL.

UH...
DID YOU MISS
THE SUIT, YOUR
HONOR?

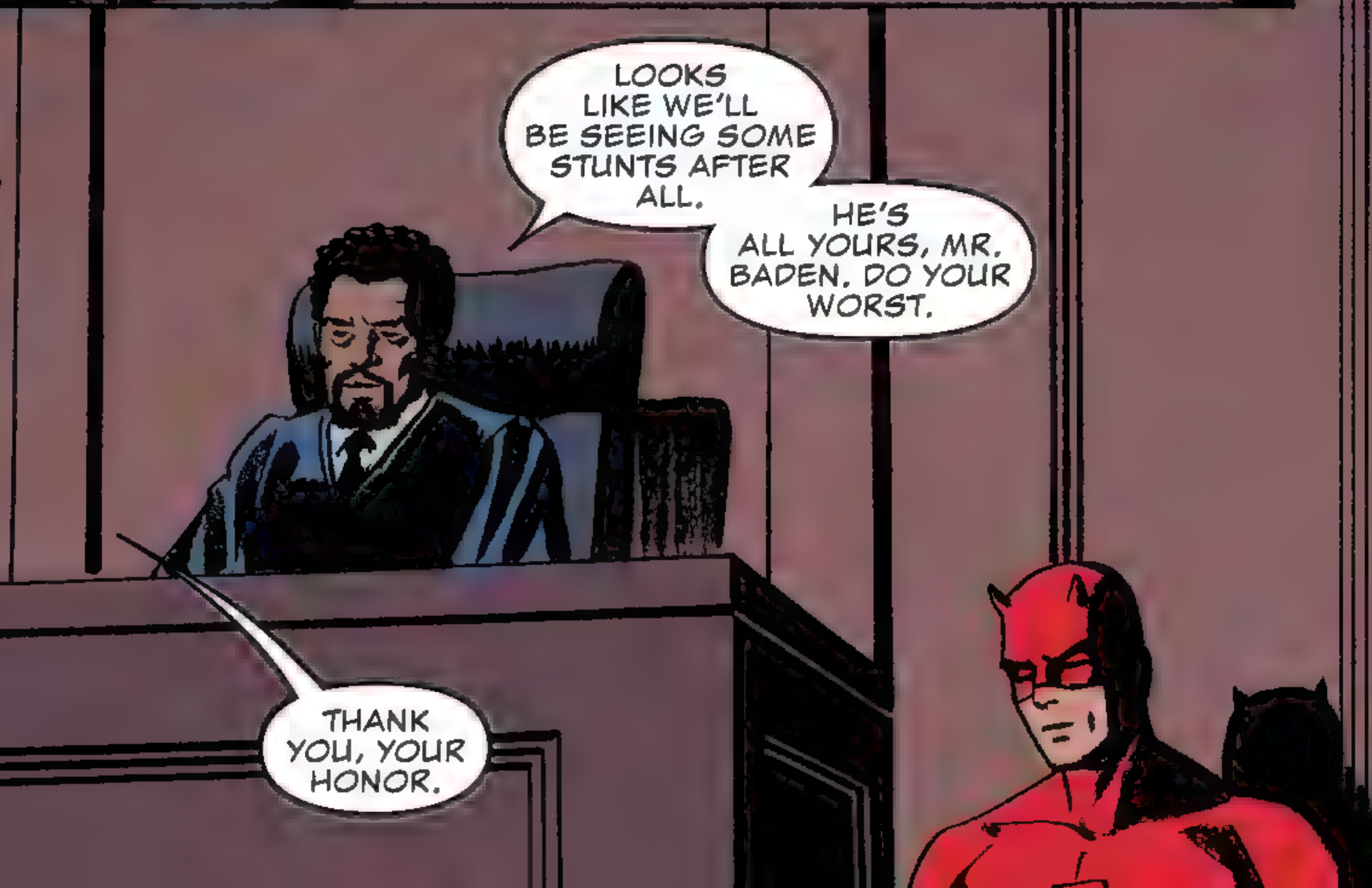
ANYONE
CAN PUT ON
A SUIT, MR.
DEVIL.



LOOKS
LIKE WE'LL
BE SEEING SOME
STUNTS AFTER
ALL.

HE'S
ALL YOURS, MR.
BADEN. DO YOUR
WORST.

THANK
YOU, YOUR
HONOR.





ALL RIGHT.
YOU CLAIM TO BE
DAREDEVIL. WE SEE
THE RED SUIT--BUT AS
THE JUDGE NOTED,
ANYONE CAN PUT
ON A SUIT.

IF YOU'RE
DAREDEVIL...
PROVE IT.

HAPPY TO.
MURDOCK SAID
THIS MIGHT COME UP,
TOO. LET'S START WITH
THE SUPER-SENSES--
AFTER ALL, THAT'S WHAT
I'M GOING TO BE
TESTIFYING
ABOUT.



"OUT IN THE LOBBY, THERE'S A
WOMAN ON HER CELL. I CAN
HEAR HER. EVERY WORD.

"SHE'S TALKING TO SOMEONE
NAMED GREG, REMINDING HIM
TO BUY TOOTHPASTE ON HIS
WAY HOME."



GO
CHECK.

SHE COULD
HAVE BEEN PLANTED.
NOT THAT I'M ACCUSING
YOU OF SUCH A THING,
BUT IT'S HARDLY
PROOF.



OKAY, FINE.
YOU HAD A SPINACH
SALAD FOR LUNCH, WITH
STRAWBERRIES, ALMONDS,
BLEU CHEESE AND A
VINAIGRETTE DRESSING.
DIET COKE. I CAN
SMELL IT.

AM I
RIGHT?

I could also tell him that it's not agreeing with him--his gut sounds like a garbage disposal. But hey, leave the guy a little dignity.



YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT ME, RIGHT? YOU COULD JUST SAY YOU HAD A BURGER OR SOMETHING.

His heart rate just jumped. Yup.

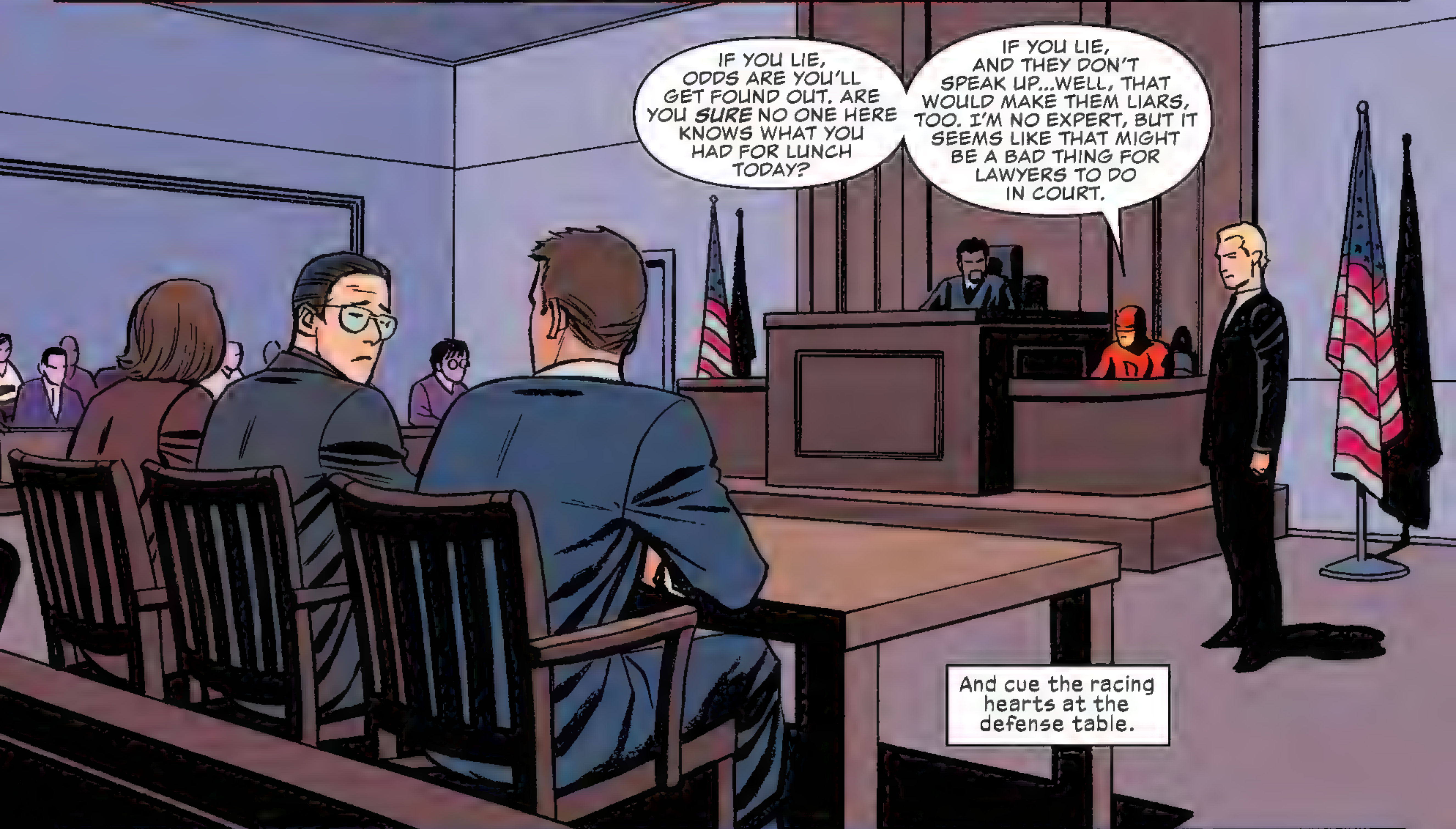
BUT YOU WANT TO ASK YOURSELF SOMETHING, MR. BADEN.



IF YOU LIE, ODDS ARE YOU'LL GET FOUND OUT. ARE YOU SURE NO ONE HERE KNOWS WHAT YOU HAD FOR LUNCH TODAY?

IF YOU LIE, AND THEY DON'T SPEAK UP...WELL, THAT WOULD MAKE THEM LIARS, TOO. I'M NO EXPERT, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THAT MIGHT BE A BAD THING FOR LAWYERS TO DO IN COURT.

And cue the racing hearts at the defense table.



WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT, YES. I HAD A SPINACH SALAD FOR LUNCH. BUT I HAD IT IN A PUBLIC RESTAURANT NOT FAR FROM HERE. AGAIN, EASY TO PREP AHEAD OF TIME.

CLEARLY WE KNOW YOU WERE ANTICIPATING THIS LINE OF QUESTIONS.





THIS IS GETTING RIDICULOUS. IF I'M NOT DAREDEVIL, THEN WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

THAT'S NOT THE QUESTION WE'RE TRYING TO ANSWER RIGHT NOW, SIR, AND I'LL ASK YOU TO PLEASE REMAIN CALM.

Calm? I'm ice-cold. He's just trying to convince the jury that I'm an untrustworthy hothead. I've used that trick myself.

Lawyers are the *worst*.

ONLY ONE THING IS MATERIAL-- WHETHER YOU ARE, IN FACT--

Wait.



Is that--



EVERYONE GET DOWN!



LIGHT IT UP!

Ammo, Black Powder, Tracer and Steeljacket. Add in Simon Slugansky, and that's the whole crew.

The Clip, here to take back their guy before he gets convicted and rats them all out.

BANG
BANG
BANG



BANG.
BANG.

They're morons--but they're morons with guns, in a room full of innocent people.

BANG
BANG
BANG



GAH!

Innocent people and me.



WE'RE TAKING OUR MAN. GET IN OUR WAY, GET DEAD.

GET IT?



KRRCK



SORRY, YOUR HONOR. THAT'S USUALLY MORE THOR'S THING.

DON'T APOLOGIZE. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THAT. BEAUTIFUL. HAMMER OF JUSTICE!

GO GET 'EM, SON.

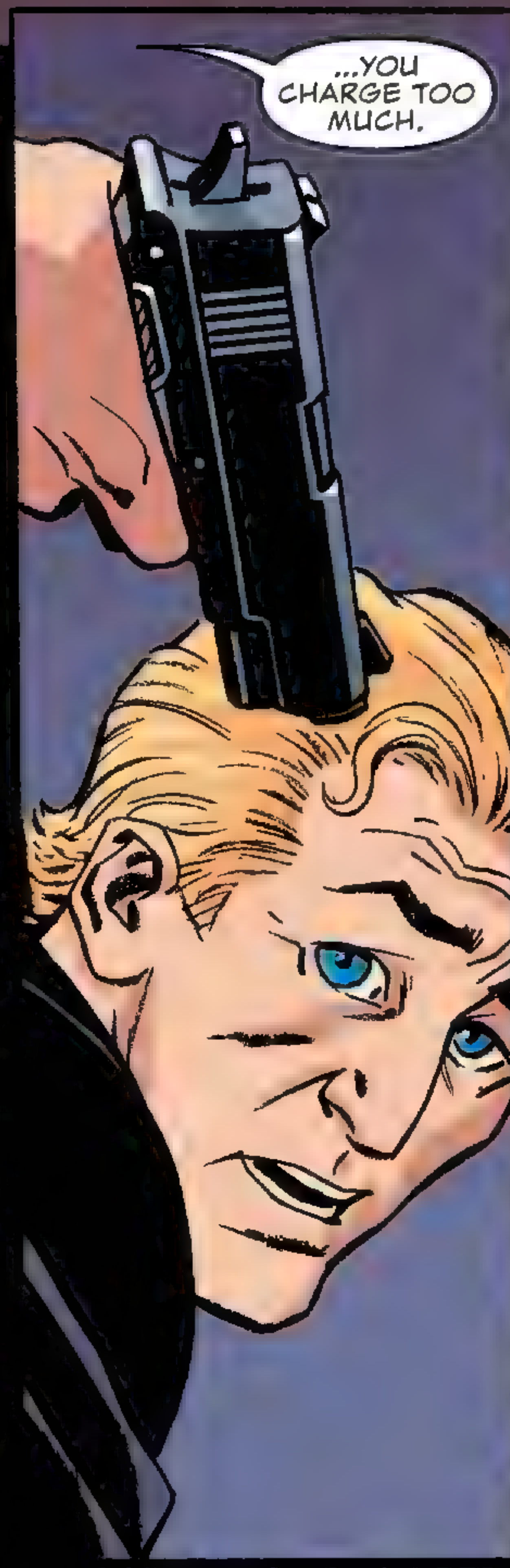
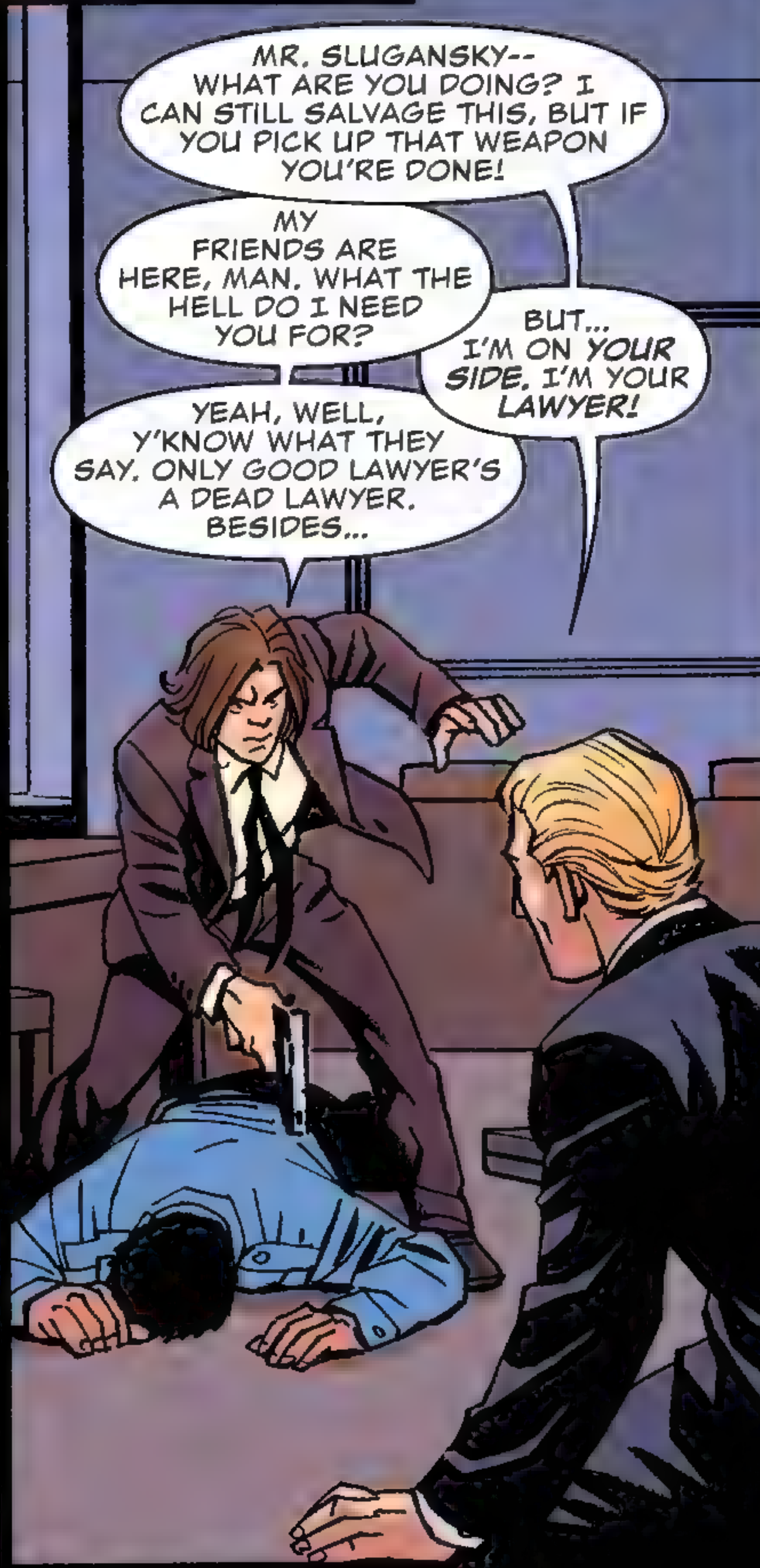
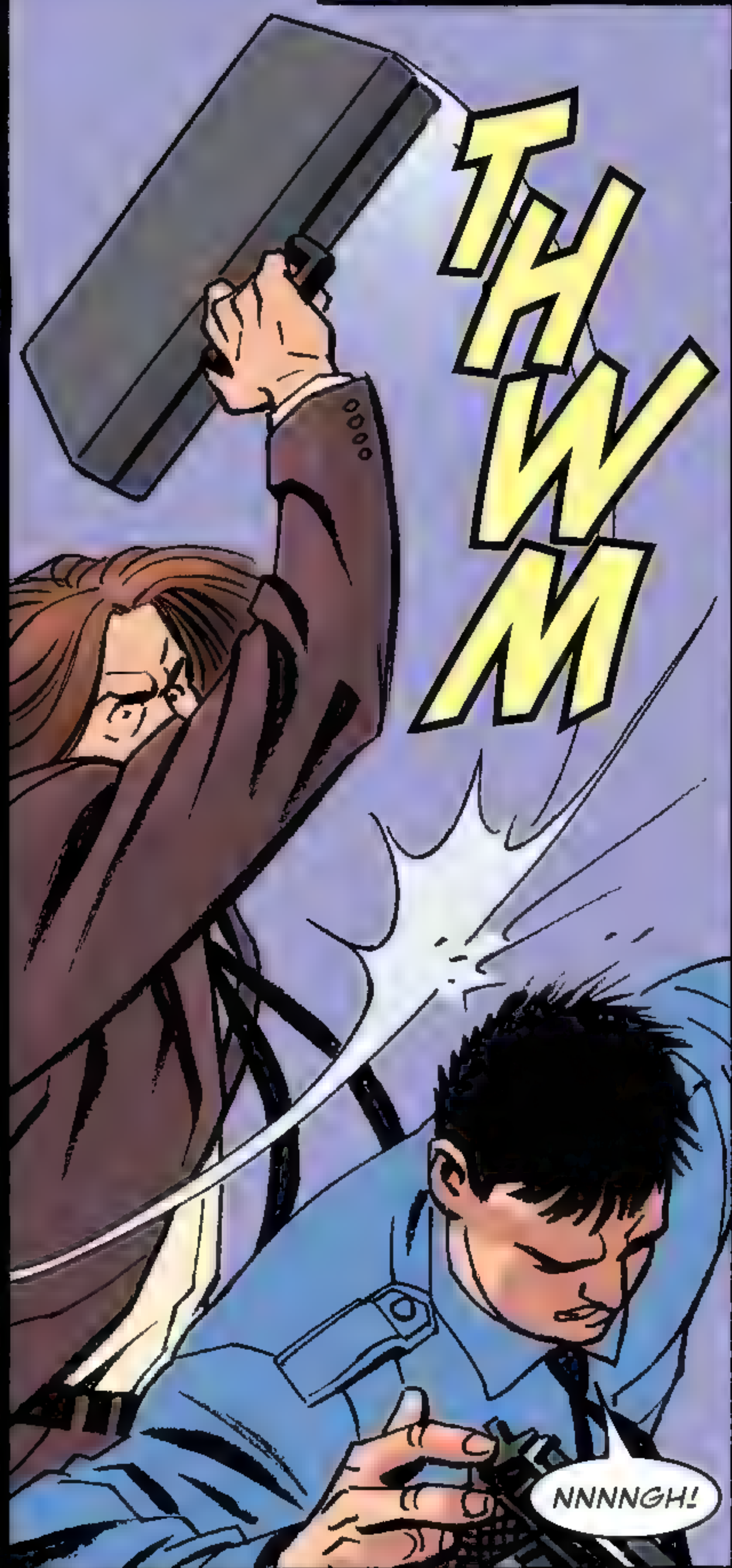
Thing about guns--they're *terrible* in a close-up fight. Especially long guns--rifles, that sort of thing.

Once things get up tight, a rifle's no better than a *club*.

They're realizing that... panicking. Trying desperately to get into a position where they can shoot me without shooting each other.

While every one of my moves is designed to make that impossible.

There's this sense that holding a gun makes you *invulnerable*.





KRCK

Man, these things really come in handy. Maybe I should start carrying one around.

Nah. Probably too on the nose.

Heh.



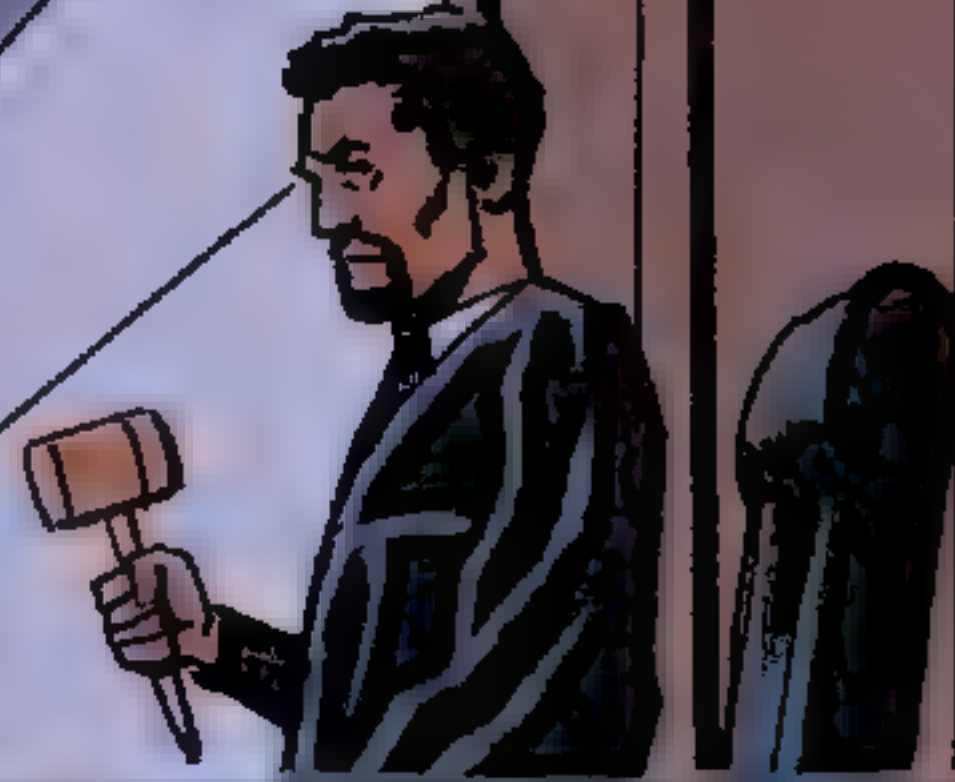
BY MY COUNT, COUNSELOR, THAT MAN JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE NOT ONCE, BUT TWICE, IN AS MANY MINUTES.

STILL THINK HE'S NOT DAREDEVIL?



ALL RIGHT. OBVIOUSLY, WE'LL HAVE TO RECESS WHILE WE GET THE COURTROOM SORTED OUT.

BUT AS SOON AS WE POSSIBLY CAN, WE'LL GET MR. DEVIL BACK UP HERE ON THE STAND. AND I'LL TELL YOU THIS RIGHT NOW...

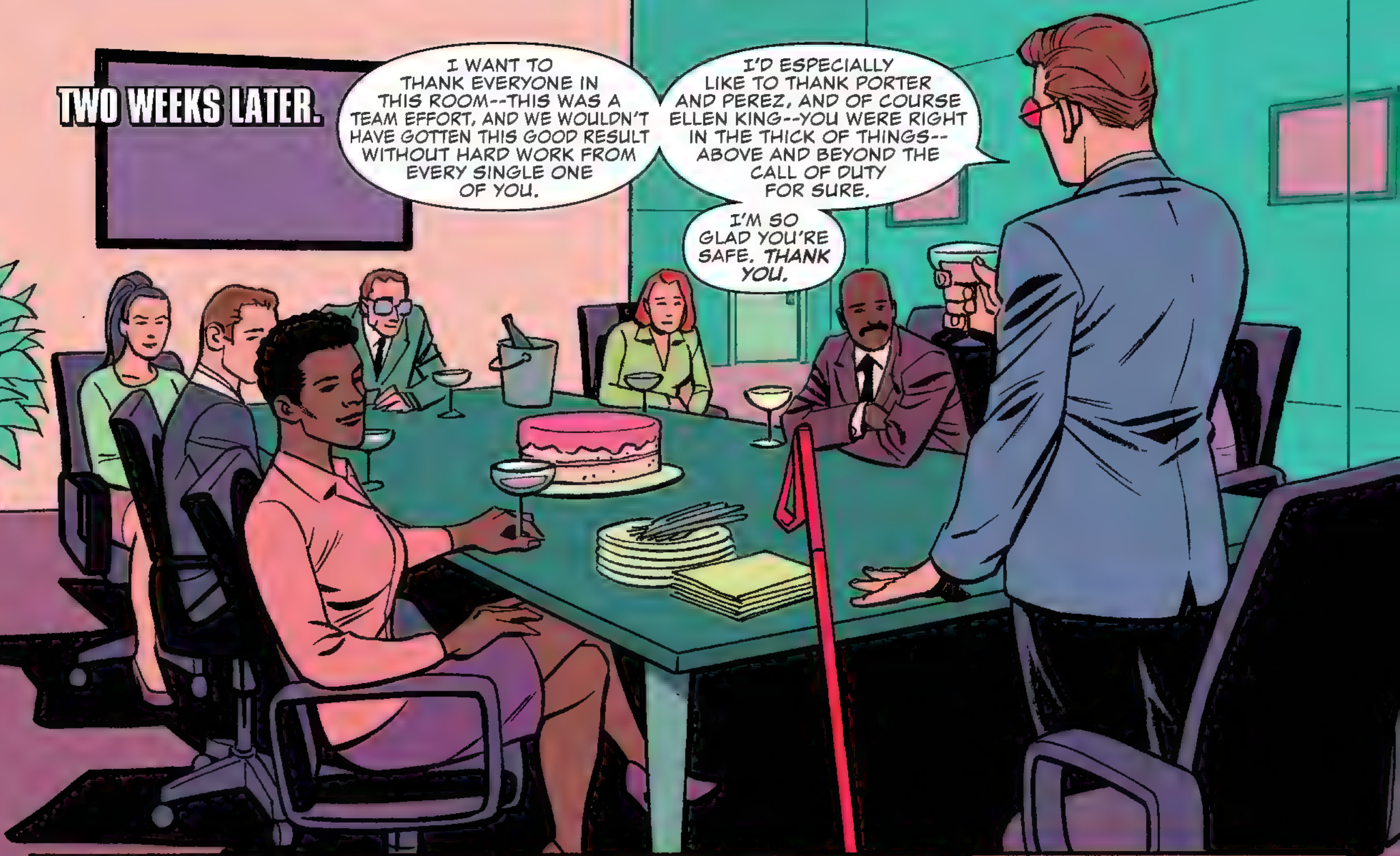


TWO WEEKS LATER.

I WANT TO
THANK EVERYONE IN
THIS ROOM--THIS WAS A
TEAM EFFORT, AND WE WOULDN'T
HAVE GOTTEN THIS GOOD RESULT
WITHOUT HARD WORK FROM
EVERY SINGLE ONE
OF YOU.

I'D ESPECIALLY
LIKE TO THANK PORTER
AND PEREZ, AND OF COURSE
ELLEN KING--YOU WERE RIGHT
IN THE THICK OF THINGS--
ABOVE AND BEYOND THE
CALL OF DUTY
FOR SURE.

I'M SO
GLAD YOU'RE
SAFE. THANK
YOU.



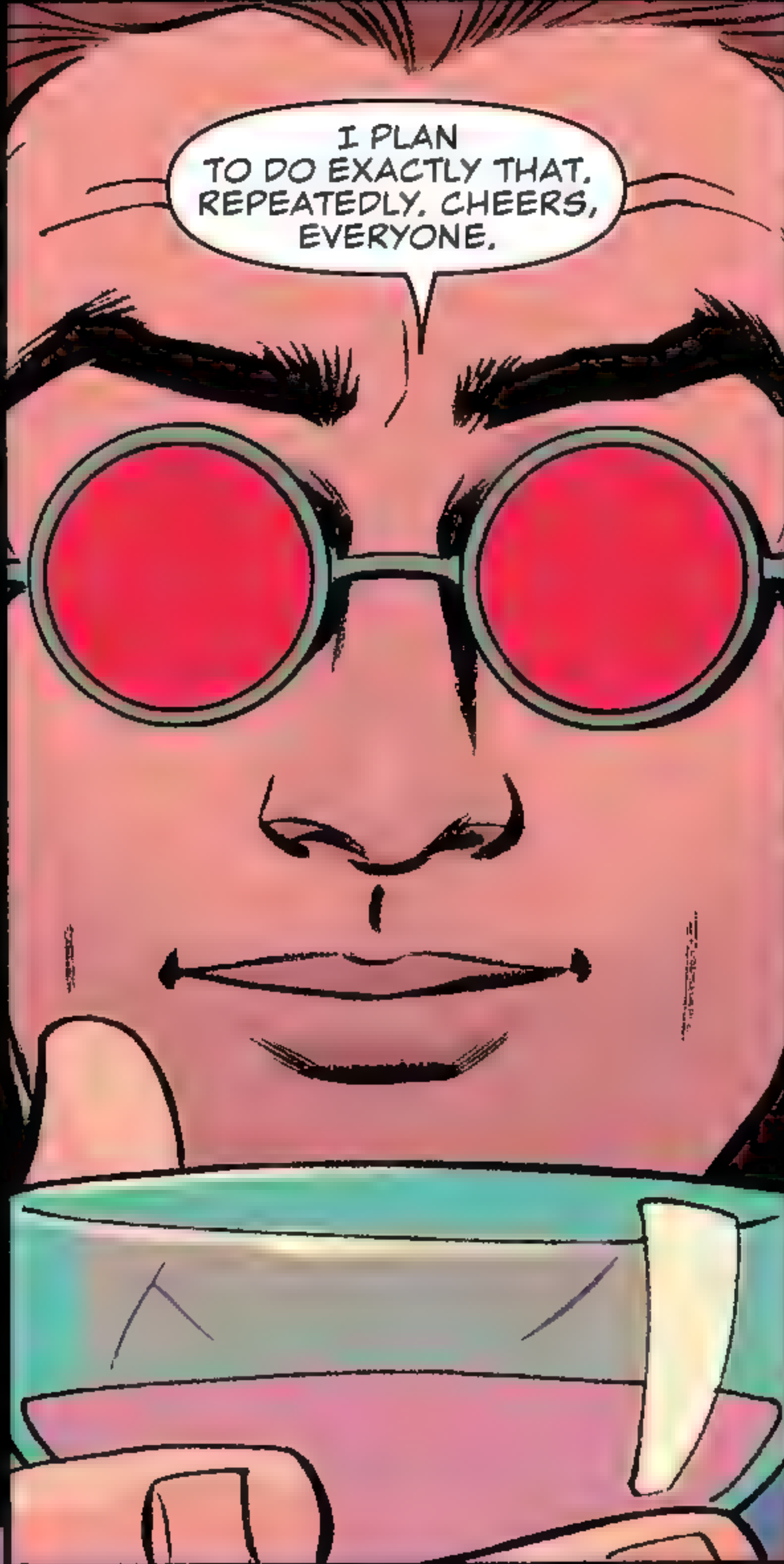
YOU'RE WELCOME,
MURDOCK. TYPICAL, RIGHT?
WE DO ALL THE HARD WORK WHILE
MR. SILVER SPOON SITS
IT OUT.

ANYWAY,
ENOUGH OUTTA
YOU--WHEN'S DAREDEVIL
GETTING HERE? NOW
HE'S THE GUY WE
ALL WANT TO
TALK TO.

HE SENDS
HIS REGRETS,
BUT HE SAID TO TELL
YOU ALL TO HAVE
A DRINK FOR
HIM.



I PLAN
TO DO EXACTLY THAT.
REPEATEDLY. CHEERS,
EVERYONE.



HEAR,
HEAR!

HEAR,
HEAR!

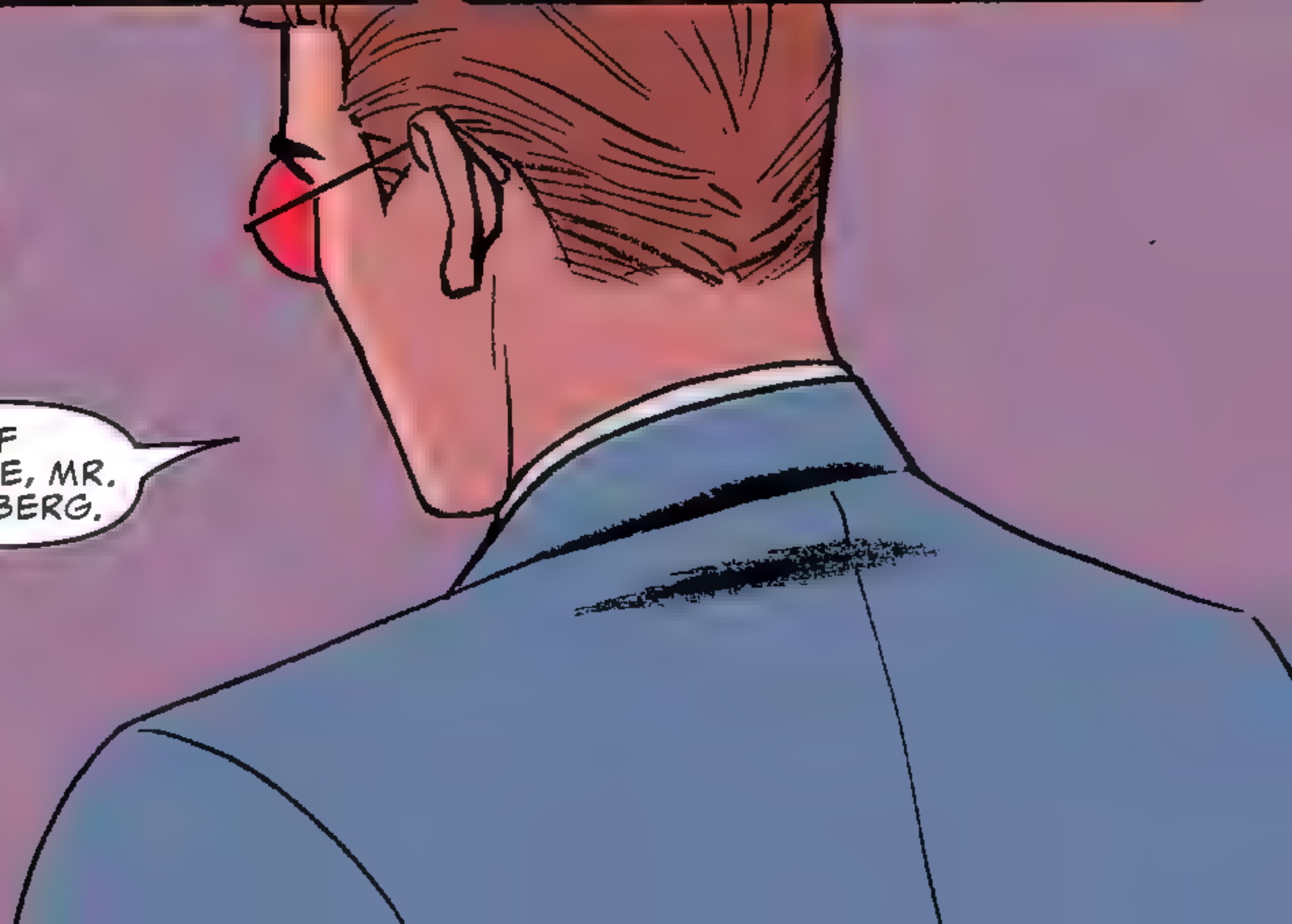
HEAR,
HEAR!

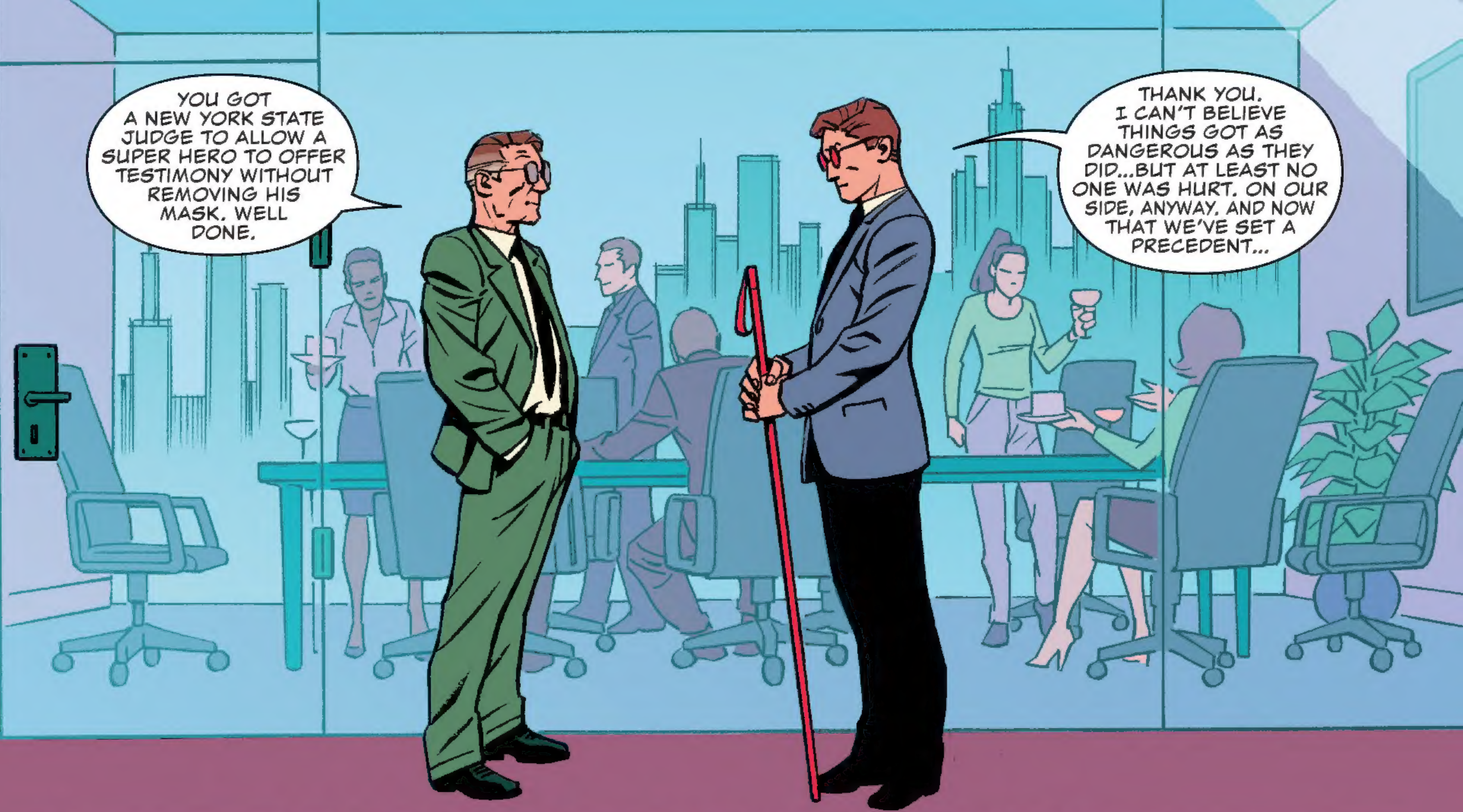
HEAR,
HEAR!



MR.
MURDOCK,
A BRIEF WORD,
IF YOU DON'T
MIND?

OF
COURSE, MR.
HOCHBERG.





YOU GOT A NEW YORK STATE JUDGE TO ALLOW A SUPER HERO TO OFFER TESTIMONY WITHOUT REMOVING HIS MASK. WELL DONE.

THANK YOU. I CAN'T BELIEVE THINGS GOT AS DANGEROUS AS THEY DID...BUT AT LEAST NO ONE WAS HURT. ON OUR SIDE, ANYWAY. AND NOW THAT WE'VE SET A PRECEDENT...

★★★★★
FINAL

DAILY BUGLE

NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEW SPAPER

★★★★★
\$1.00 (in NYC)
\$1.50 (outside city)

“...IT’S REALLY JUST THE BEGINNING.”

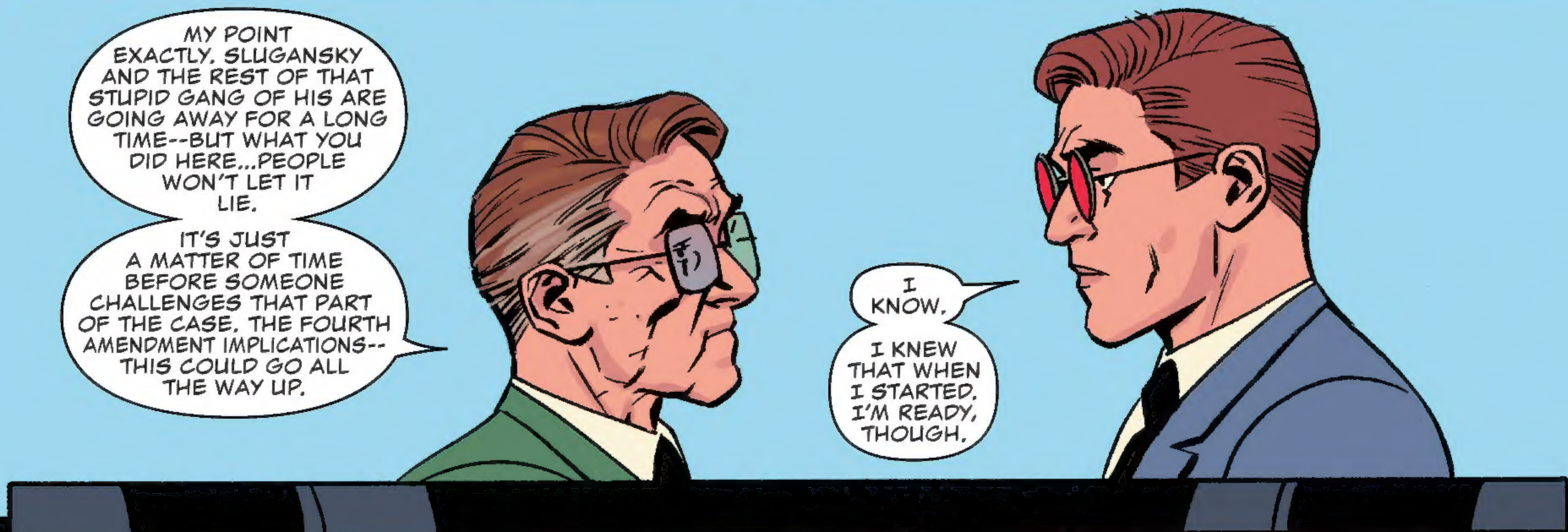
THE DEVIL YOU (DON’T) KNOW

Super-powered vigilante Daredevil testifies in New York State Supreme Court.

MANHATTAN: In an unprecedented expansion of existing law, the hero was not required to disclose his actual identity before

attacked by members of the apocalyptic street gang known as the Clip, who were attempting to remove Slugansky from the trial. Daredevil was able to dispatch the criminal, and all five members of the Clip were taken into police custody. Daredevil then proceeded to offer detailed testimony about the earlier incident in which

HMM. YOU SEE...IT’S THIS KIND OF THING.



MY POINT EXACTLY. SLUGANSKY AND THE REST OF THAT STUPID GANG OF HIS ARE GOING AWAY FOR A LONG TIME--BUT WHAT YOU DID HERE...PEOPLE WON'T LET IT LIE.

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE CHALLENGES THAT PART OF THE CASE. THE FOURTH AMENDMENT IMPLICATIONS--THIS COULD GO ALL THE WAY UP.

I KNOW. I KNEW THAT WHEN I STARTED. I'M READY, THOUGH.

“ANYONE WHO WANTS TO FIGHT ME ON THIS... THEY CAN BRING IT ON.”

★★★★★
FINAL

DAILY BUGLE

NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEW SPAPER

SINCE 1897
★★★★★
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THE DEVIL YOU (DON’T) KNOW

Super-powered vigilante Daredevil testifies in New York State Supreme Court.

MANHATTAN: In an unprecedented expansion of existing law, the hero was not required to disclose his actual identity before

THIS SORT OF THING. THIS IS NOT PLAYING FAIR. AND YOU KNOW WHAT?

I WON'T
STAND FOR
IT.



TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:

"SUPREME" PART 3

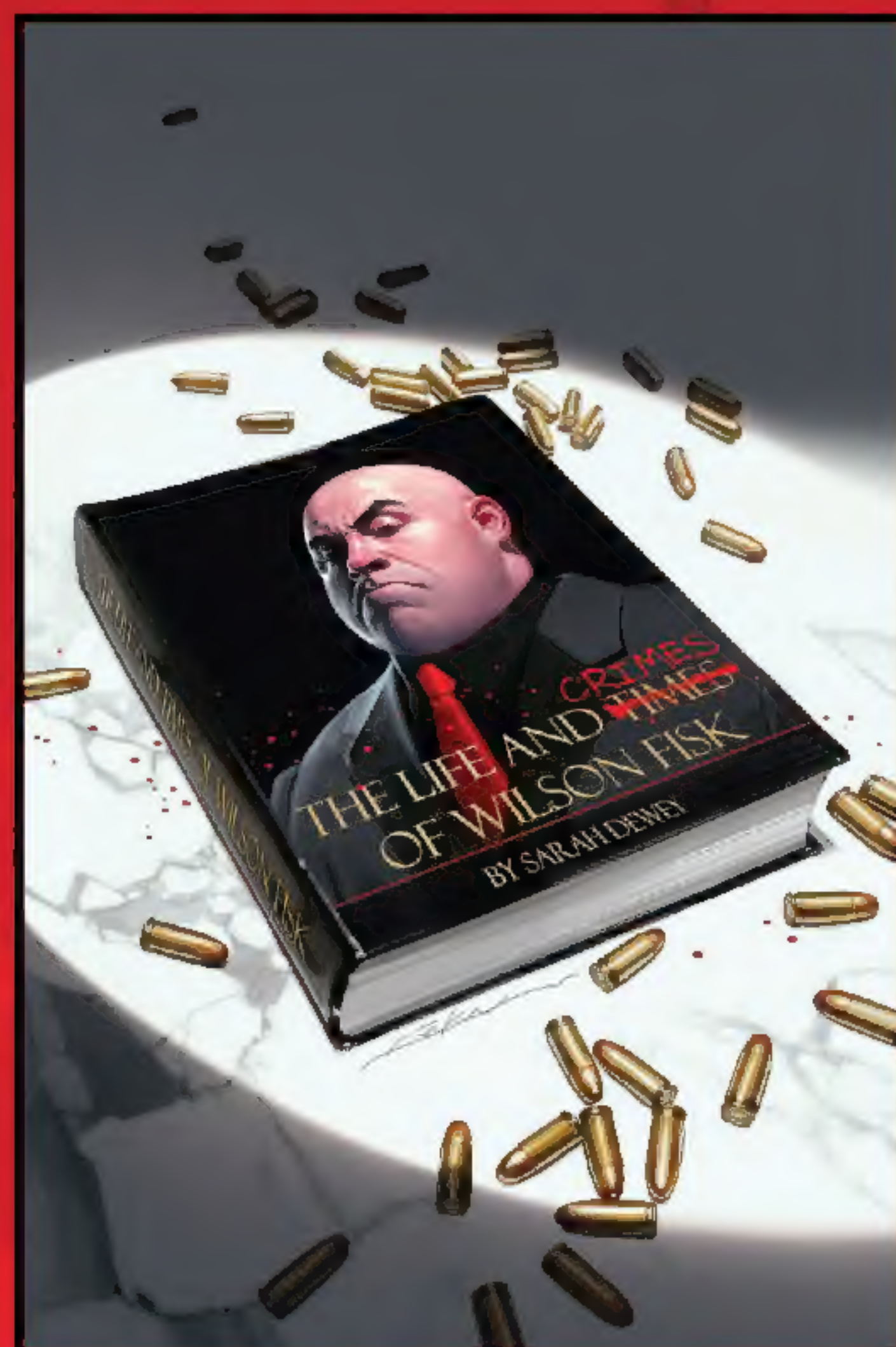


DAREDEVIL #23

ALSO ON SALE THIS MONTH



BULLSEYE #5 - ON SALE NOW



KINGPIN #5 - ON SALE NOW



ELEKTRA #5

